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Four go on trial today

THE State Security Court begins today (Saturday) proceedings to try four Kuwaitis accused of attempting to overthrow the government besides a host of other charges.

The four defendants in the case are Sayed Mohammad Baqer Sayed Abbas Al Mosawi better known as Al Mahri, Faisal Abdul Hadi Hajji Al Mahmeed, Waleed Majed Sayed Redha Al Mazzeidi and Abdul Karim Qassem Al Saffar. All the four are currently in jail.

The court will be chaired by councillor Mohammad Abdul Hai Al Banna. The first day of the trial will be open to all journalists and the general public will be allowed to attend part of it by obtaining special permits. The proceedings will then be completed behind closed doors.

The state security prosecution has tabled 10 main charges against the four Kuwaiti defendants and said that they had carried out the accusation in the period from June 10, 1986 until September 23, 1989 when they were apprehended.

Among the charges they face are joining illegal groups and organisations that call to demolish through illegal ways and methods, the basis of the social and economic system of Kuwait.

They are charged with instigating others to join them and have openly but verbally instigated and called for the overthrow of the present regime in Kuwait.

The four are also accused of "planning to use explosives with the aim to kill people, spread harassment among people and sabotage." They had also planned to kill unlimited number of people by plotting to blast the Kuwait Airways Corporation building.

The state security prosecution also accused the defendants of possessing explosives and equipments and materials to manufacture them besides possessing weapons, ammunition, guns and bullets.

The defendants also face charges like collaborating in carrying out crimes, damaging a car at the site of the explosion and illegally smuggling explosives.

Kuwait steps in

Bid to defuse tension over Kashmir

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 11: Kuwait has been doing its bit to defuse the tension between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue, with a special envoy of HH the Amir travelling this week to both Islamabad and Delhi for talks with leaders of both countries.

Mohammed Sulaiman Sayeed Ali Al Rifaie, adviser to the Amir, reached Delhi from Islamabad on Wednesday night and was scheduled to leave today.

Talking to reporters on his arrival, Mohammed said he had brought a letter from HH the Amir for Prime Minister V.P. Singh. The letter, he said, dealt with bilateral matters and "other hot issues of the region," an obvious reference to the Kashmir problem.



Philippine technicians examine a gutted Philippine Airlines 737 jet on the tarmac of Manila airport yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bomb blast aboard jet

7 die, 80 injured in Manila

MANILA, May 11, (AP): Investigators say a bomb may have blown up aboard a Philippine Airlines jet, causing a fire that killed seven people and hurt 80 others today.

The explosion and fire rocked the Boeing 737-300 as it was being towed to a runway at a Manila airport for a flight to Iloilo, 470 kms (290 miles) to the south. It was carrying 113 passengers and six crew.

Panic-stricken passengers trampled one another in a rush for the exits, said survivors, who gave conflicting accounts of the number of explosions.

"There were three explosions, loud explosions, and the ceiling shattered," said one passenger, Isidro Retaso, 33. "On the second explosion, I immediately opened the emergency exit."

Retaso said the flight attendants were in the middle of reading emergency instructions to the passengers — a routine at the start of all flights — when the explosions occurred.

Survivors said the panic-stricken passengers trampled one another rushing for the exits.

Sony Villareal, 30, recalled only one blast. "Everything

looked normal, but then there was a loud explosion. It was really deafening and strong because luggage fell from the upper compartments," he said.

"After the explosion, there was fire and thick smoke billowed. Everybody panicked after that. People were stumbling over each other trying to get out of the plane," added Villareal.

At least 82 passengers were treated for injuries at the airport clinic, according to airline employee Alfredo Estrella. Twenty-two of the injured were hospitalised, one in serious condition, officials said.

The bodies of six adults and one small girl were found inside the burned-out cabin, said Ed Carrasco, manager of the airport. He said they were either killed by the blast or died of smoke inhalation. Rescuers said the girl was clutching the body of a woman, apparently her mother.

Dante Santos, the president of Philippine Airlines, said flames raged through the plane in four minutes. He said there apparently was only one blast, near the centre of the passenger cabin where the bodies were found.

See also Page 2

NEWSWATCH

'CIA helped smuggle heavy water to India'

OSLO, May 11, (AP): A Norwegian arms researcher claimed Wednesday that the US Central Intelligence Agency played a key role in smuggling heavy water to India, where it could have been used for nuclear weapons.

Arild Aspoey said 15 tons of heavy water were illegally delivered by the same transport aircraft involved in the Iran-Contra affair, which was operated by the CIA.

The 1983 consignment was intended for West Germany but was diverted to India, Aspoey

told the NTB news agency in connection with the publication of his book, "The Family Jewels — Heavy Water, Weapons and the CIA."

Heavy water, or deuterium oxide, is a reactor coolant that can be used to convert uranium into weapons-grade plutonium.

India has said it received all its heavy water from the Soviet Union or domestic sources. Norway, before banning all exports last year, refused to sell to India because it has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

be used as triggers for nuclear weapons. (Reuters)

Kidnappers rule out talks: The reputed mentor of Shiite Muslim kidnappers on Friday ruled out negotiations with Israel for a swap of Arab detainees.

Sammy Davis Jr seriously ill: Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr weighs only 60 pounds (27 kg) and appears to be losing his battle with throat cancer, a close friend said yesterday.

Ferryboat unloads 66 passengers as Aoun's gunners fire warning shots

BEIRUT, May 11, (AP): A ferryboat ran the gauntlet of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's shellfire today and into a port controlled by militiamen of his Christian rival Samir Geagea, disembarking 66 passengers and returning to Cyprus.

Police said Aoun's gunners on a mountain ridge overlooking the Mediterranean fired two 155 mm Howitzer warning shots near the Victory 1 as it approached the port of Jounieh at 8 am (0500 GMT).

The ship, arriving from Larnaca, Cyprus, stopped about five miles (eight kilometres) offshore for about two hours then sailed into the port, disembarking the passengers and left on a

return trip, according to police.

Aoun's gunners also fired several salvos into the Beirut port at midday (0900 GMT) to keep Geagea's machine-gun-mounted speedboats away. Police said four civilians were wounded.

The battle for mastery of the Christian enclave has killed 930 people and wounded 2,576 since Jan 30, by police count.

Aoun's enclave north of Beirut off limits for international shipping in an attempt to clamp a sea blockade on Geagea's 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces militia.

But the Victory 1 has since made three trips to

Jounieh, the enclave's main port.

Geagea's militia control most of the enclave's 28-mile (45 kilometre) shore, including a major part of Beirut port as well as Jounieh and the coastal town of Byblos.

Their speedboats blockade a three-mile (five kilometre) beachstrip at Dbaye, between Beirut and Jounieh, where Aoun's 19,000 landlocked troops had set up a makeshift harbour to try to bring in military spare parts and ammunition.

Both sides have been reported running low on ammunition.

The confrontation has wreaked heavier destruction on the Christian heartland than the 15

years of civil war with the Muslims.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has estimated material damage caused by waves of sustained shelling during the 310-square mile (800 square kilometre) enclave at over \$1 billion.

Police say more than 400,000 of the enclave's one million population have fled, seeking shelter in Muslim areas or abroad.

Snipers on frontline positions in East Beirut and the surrounding hinterland kept most of the enclave's roads closed to traffic for a fourth day today.



Rutherford stable

Three-time Indy-500 winner Johnny Rutherford suffered a concussion and other minor injuries when his car crashed into the third turn wall during practice on Wednesday for this year's Indianapolis rally. He was reported in stable condition. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajiv launches sit-down fast

NEW DELHI, May 11, (UPI): Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi led thousands of Congress (I) Party members in a daylong fast yesterday in the first programme of a nation-wide campaign aimed at refurbishing the battered image of his erstwhile political movement.

Rajiv and hundreds of Congress (I) Party loyalists staged a 12-hour sit-down fast at the riverside crematorium site of apostle of peace Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, accusing the government of damaging the unity and integrity of the nation.

Similar sit-ins were held in some 400 locations across the country of 820 million people, said former parliamentary affairs minister L.K. Bhargat, a powerful New Delhi-based Congress (I) Party leader.

Rajiv, 44, clad in a spotless white traditional Indian cotton suit comprising a knee-length shirt and loose pants, took shelter from the searing 102 degree F (39 degree C) heat under a canvas canopy.

"What better place than this to go on fast," Rajiv asked as he sat crosslegged under a tarpaulin canopy. The temperature outside soared to 38 degree C (100 degree F).

About 100 senior Congress Party members sat around Rajiv, who heads the party. Plainclothes policemen ringed the group.

News reports said tens of thousands of party workers went on a fast in other parts of the country at the start of a series of "agitational programmes" called by the Congress Party.

"It is to bring the attention of the government to the state they have brought our country to — in terms of damaging the unity and integrity of the nation," Rajiv said.

"The country is facing great danger today, internally. Look at Kashmir, Punjab," he said referring to the secessionist campaigns plaguing those regions.

This is the first time Rajiv has fasted during his political career and sat in the open for 12 hours. As prime minister, he was provided unprecedented security in the wake of the assassination of his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, by two Sikh bodyguards in October, 1984.

May 28 fixed Summit in Baghdad

CAIRO, May 11, (Reuters): Arab leaders, disregarding a threatened boycott by Syria, have agreed to meet in Baghdad on May 28 to focus anger over the mass influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The choice of the Iraqi capital also signals a show of support for President Saddam Hussein's weapons development programmes, which have alarmed the West and Israel.

But Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has vowed not to attend if the meeting is held in Iraq.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who paid a landmark visit to Assad only last week, disclosed the date and place of the meeting in Oman, the first stop on a trip which will take him to China, North Korea, the Soviet Union and Britain.

Arab League headquarters in Tunis confirmed Mubarak's statement and said Arab foreign ministers would hold a pre-summit meeting in Baghdad on May 22. Iraq will send out official invitations next week.

Seventeen of the League's 22 members have agreed to attend an emergency summit. The exceptions are Syria, Morocco, Libya, Somalia and Oman.

The announcement apparently signalled an end to a round of high-level diplomacy in which Egypt and Saudi Arabia, among others, tried to head off a Syrian boycott.

Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising said today the forthcoming Arab summit should confront US Middle East policy and Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

In its latest regular leaflet, the unified leadership of the uprising said the summit was urgently needed to confront "hostile American policy and conspiracies against Iraq as well as the vicious settlement drive ... represented by Soviet Jewish immigration to our occupied land."

Arab leaders hope to forge a common front at the summit and send a strong signal to Washington and Moscow over the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, but inter-Arab feuds could blunt its impact.

Curfews imposed in Karachi to curb violence

KARACHI, May 11, (Reuters): Pakistan's opposition leader called yesterday for the resignation of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's 17-month-old government because of the "fast deteriorating law and order situation."

The government ordered curfews on parts of the country's biggest city, Karachi, after 16 people were killed in three days of ethnic violence.

Troops in battledress patrolled three curfew-bound districts of eastern Karachi where rival ethnic groups had fought gunbattles, witnesses said.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, opposition leader in the National Assembly (lower house), told reporters that

Benazir's government had failed, adding: "It should now leave."

Police said the clashes between Mohajir immigrants from India and Pashtuns and Punjabis from northern Pakistan erupted on Tuesday.

The violence was sparked by a dispute over food-raising between followers of the Mohajir National Movement and the Punjabi-Pashtun Alliance, police said. Both sides blamed the other for the violence.

Meanwhile, four gunmen kidnapped the father-in-law of the Sind province interior minister on Wednesday. Pakistan's official APP news agency said.

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'Khashoggi owned skyscraper'

Citibank told; Imelda on trial in US

NEW YORK, May 11. (Agencies): A bank official said on Wednesday that after a court order froze the assets of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi claimed ownership of a Wall Street building the Marcoses allegedly purchased.

John Sanderson, a Citibank vice-president, said the representation was made by an associate of Khashoggi's during a discussion in the summer of 1986 about a \$39-million Citibank loan that had been secured by the skyscraper at 40 Wall St.

Capitolo captured for slaying

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines, May 11. (UPI): The military announced today the arrest of a communist guerrilla commander who admitted he led the rebel team that ambushed and killed two American contract workers outside a US communications station last September.

Alex Capitolo, 33, provincial commander of the communist-led New People's Army (NPA), was captured on Wednesday as he emerged from a beer-drinking party at a restaurant in the nearby town of Guagua, the military said.

Li Col Efrén Fernandez, Pampanga province constabulary commander, said Capitolo was armed with a grenade, but did not resist.

Fernandez said Capitolo had been wanted for 16 murder and kidnapping cases, including the ambush slaying on Sept 26 of William Thompson, 34, and Donald Buchner, 44. Thompson and Buchner, both employees of Ford Aerospace under contract with the defence department, were killed in an ambush while driving home outside the US Camp O'Donnell communications station in Tarlac province 70 miles (112 km) north of Manila.

Fernandez said Capitolo admitted he led the group of 30 rebels riding on two trucks that waylaid the two Americans. The ambush coincided with the visit of US Vice-President Dan Quayle.

Philippines fights power shortage

MANILA, May 11. (AP): The government yesterday ordered bans on using lights and air conditioning during certain hours in an attempt to alleviate a severe power shortage.

The measures, effective five days from publication, ban outdoor neon lights except for hospitals and clinics, funeral parlours, houses, apartments, condominiums and sports clubs. Other businesses and facilities may use neon lights only between 6 pm and 9 pm.

The order, issued by the presidential palace, also requires government offices to turn off lights and air conditioning during the hour-long lunch break.

Sanderson's testimony addressed the prosecution's allegations that Khashoggi assumed ownership of four New York buildings held by the Marcoses after a March 1986 injunction prohibited any transfer of their properties.

Khashoggi, who is charged with mail fraud and obstruction of justice, is on trial in US district court with Imelda.

She is accused of helping her husband, the late Philippine president, loot their nation's treasury of more than \$220 million and use the money to support lavish living and buy the four buildings secretly.

Imelda, 60, also is charged with defrauding more than \$165 million in loans, including the Citibank loan, from banking institutions to finance the real estate.

She has pleaded innocent to charges of racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice.

Sanderson said his initial dealings concerning the loan were with Gliceria Tantoco, a close friend of Imelda. Mrs Tantoco, the owner of Rustan's Department Store in Manila, also was charged in the indictment but is a fugitive.

Sanderson testified that he had at least two meetings with Mrs Tantoco in 1984 and 1985 about problems with the building's management.

In July 1986, he learned that the management company was \$2 million behind in city real estate taxes and because any city claim would come before Citibank's Sanderson said.

A short time later, he got call from Karl Block Peterson, who told him he was working for Khashoggi and said Khashoggi was the building's owner.

Sanderson said the loan agreement had prohibited any transfer of the property without the bank's written consent.

He said Peterson made a "convoluted" proposal that would pay off the mortgage and provide money to the Philippine government and Khashoggi.



Militant women

A Philippine policeman watches some 100 militant women with their children during a peaceful rally yesterday in front of the US embassy in Manila three days before the start of

the exploratory talks on the future of the US military bases in the country. (Reuter wirephoto)

Danding denies coup role

Refuses to answer questions

MANILA, May 11. (AP): President Corason Aquino's estranged cousin denied any role in a failed coup last year, but invoked his right against self-incrimination 33 times today in refusing to answer investigators' questions.

Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a business tycoon and former associate of the late Ferdinand Marcos, last November had slipped back into the country from the United States, where he had lived since his cousin, Mrs Aquino, took office in the 1986 uprising that toppled Marcos. There was widespread speculation of a link between his return and the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, in which 113 people were killed and more than 600 wounded.

During the Marcos administration, Cojuangco was the most powerful figure in the Philippine business community. He has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in the 1992 elections.

During his appearance before a government commission investigating the putsch, Cojuangco's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, read a lengthy statement citing constitutional guarantees against self-incrimination.

"In light, therefore, of the above, Mr. Cojuangco invokes his right to remain silent as he affirms, and is prepared to affirm this under oath, that he had no knowledge of, much less complicity or participation in, the failed coup d'etat of December 1989," Mendoza said.

Senior deputy commission counsel Charles Anastacio then asked Cojuangco if he denied any role in the coup attempt. "I do," Cojuangco replied.

Cojuangco then invoked his right against self-incrimination rather than respond to 33 questions, including one from commission chairman Hilario Davide about whether he was a Filipino who loves his country.

Mrs Aquino appointed the commission last December to investigate the December putsch, the bloodiest and strongest of the six attempts to oust her.

During a speech after the coup attempt, Mrs Aquino said Cojuangco, Vice-President Salvador Laurel and opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile should answer to the people about their possible roles in the rebellion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug smugglers

CAIRO, May 11. (AP): A judge yesterday sentenced 12 convicted drug dealers to death for smuggling into Egypt and distributing 10 tons of hashish and 390 kgs (858 lbs) of opium, the Middle East News Agency reported.

Judge Gamal Abdel-Halim of the Cairo Criminal Court sentenced another five defendants to life imprisonment. He also handed one defendant a five-year prison term and sentenced two others to three years. Ten defendants were acquitted.

Plane crash

WUERZBURG, May 11. (AP): A West German army transport plane crashed near the southern city of Würzburg yesterday and burst into flames, killing all 10 people on board, officials said.

Defence Ministry officials said the Transall transport plane went down in a remote, wooded area near Würzburg, which is about 120 kms (75 miles) south of Frankfurt.

The plane, which was loaded with kerosene, burst into flames on impact, police said.

Jet with 11 crashes

BRISBANE, May 11. (AP): A small passenger jet believed to be carrying 11 people crashed yesterday in far north Queensland state, the Civil Aviation Authority said.

The Cessna Citation, owned by the Air North Queensland Company, was believed to have hit the ground in a heavily forested area between the towns of Atherton and Mareeba, sugar milling communities 875 miles (1,400 kms) north of Brisbane and 35 miles (56 kms) southwest of Cairns.

9 rescued

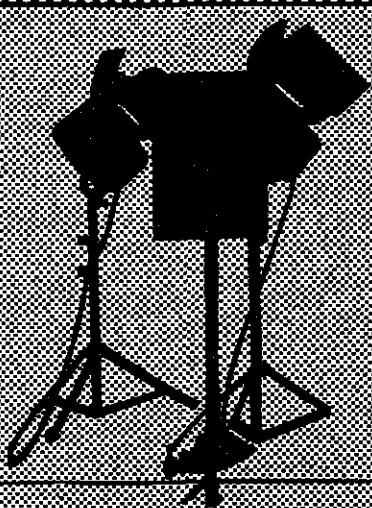
LONDON, May 11. (Reuters): A British tanker captain said today his ship rescued nine exhausted children from a tiny rowing boat drifting 150 miles offshore in the South China Sea.

The four boys and five girls, aged between 14 and 17 and believed to be Vietnamese, were picked up last night after the tanker Devonshire spotted a dim light from their boat.

Percy dies

NEW ORLEANS, May 11. (Reuters): Award-winning author Walker Percy, whose novels explored modern man's search for faith and love, has died of cancer at his home outside New Orleans. He was 74.

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SECRET

Latam cartels beef up arsenal

MEXICO CITY, May 11. (Reuters): Latin American drug runners, smarting from a series of painful blows, are beefing up their arsenals with military equipment that could take the drug war to unprecedented levels of violence.

A string of weapons seizures in the past few months has pointed to a sharply increased flow of weapons — from assault rifles and grenade launchers to anti-aircraft missiles — to drug traffickers in Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

"Forget the cops-and-robbers, Bonnie-and-Clyde stuff," said a Latin American anti-narcotics official. "We are not talking about Uzis or Heckler Koch (machine pistols). What's coming in (to Latin America) is equipment fit to fight armies."

The trend towards more potent weapons was thrown into sharp focus this week with the arrest in Florida of two Colombians for trying to buy more than 100 Stingers, the shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missile that turned the tide of war in Afghanistan against the Russians.

US officials believe the two worked for Pablo Escobar, reputed chief of the Medellín cartel that has been shipping tonnes of cocaine to the United States for years.

Colombia's drug conglomerates have suffered major setbacks since President Virgilio Barco declared war on them last August. Since then, Colombian army special forces and police have killed one of the leaders of the Medellín cartel, Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, and seized more than 15 tonnes of cocaine.

Mexico has scored similar successes and the governments of Peru and Bolivia also stepped up operations against the drug lords.

But throughout the continent's drug-producing countries, traffickers appear to be preparing to fight back with weapons that match or surpass those of their adversaries.

In Washington, officials of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) are watching the increased flood of weapons to the drug lords with concern.

"We are aware of the situation and we are concerned," Charles Gutensohn, chief of the DEA's cocaine investigations unit, told Reuters in a telephone interview. "The case of the Stingers was just an indication of the overall problem."

Colombian authorities arrested Thursday an attorney Guido Parra who had carried messages from the Medellín cartel to the government. It was part of a stepped-up campaign against the traffickers prior to presidential elections.

Soldiers discovered a sophisticated cocaine laboratory when they descended into a man-made cavern on property allegedly belonging to the Medellín cartel, the army said yesterday in Bogotá.

An army communiqué said that 2,046 pounds (930 kilograms) of cocaine were found late Wednesday in the laboratory, built 32 feet (10 metres) under a farm near the town of Doradal, 93 miles (150 kilometres) north of Bogotá.

Environ disease often misdiagnosed allergy, asthma

ST LOUIS, May 11. (AP): One breath was all it took to reduce Robert Boettcher from a hard-working farmer to a teary-eyed, wheezing man.

Boettcher, doctors say, suffers from a recently recognised environmental disease that often is misdiagnosed as allergies or asthma.

The 51-year-old farmer is no longer an active outdoorsman. He describes himself as a "kitchen farmer" who watches from the window as hired hands work the 150 acres (60 hectares) his father taught him to care for.

On some nights, the 6-foot-4 (1.93-metre), 174-pound (79-kilo) Boettcher

finds his only rest while lying on the cool concrete of his basement floor. Because his lungs "feel like they're on fire," he relies on inhalers and pills to stop the wheezing that robs him of sleep.

Cooking fumes, changes in humidity or temperature, air fresheners and even dust can trigger attacks that leave him gasping, unable to complete a sentence or take a sip of tea.

Boettcher was stricken a little more than two years ago as he was trucking a load of produce on a warm Sunday night. As he crossed a bridge over the Mississippi river, his truck passed

through a cloud of toxic fumes from an explosion and leak at a chemical plant.

"It filled the cab of the truck before I could roll up the window," he said.

He struggled to the gate of the plant and was taken to a hospital.

"When I saw him in the emergency room he was primarily having visual problems," said Peter G. Tutuor of the Washington University school of medicine. "Then the respiratory ailments became worse and turned into a major lifestyle-changing problem."

Tutuor and Dr John Mitchell have since studied more than 20 cases similar to Boettcher's and have found a

category of chronic airway disease called reactive airway dysfunction syndrome, or RADS.

The doctors recently reported their findings to the World Congress on Diseases of the Chest and the 55th annual assembly of chest physicians in Boston.

"If you look at the textbooks and previous literature, you get the sense that people who are exposed to toxic fumes become extremely ill rather suddenly, go into intensive care and either recover or die," Tutuor said.

"But that's not true. What we are finding is a group of patients not so heavily exposed, none of whom needed

to be hospitalised acutely, but all of whom have experienced chronic problems for years."

But it's hard to find people to test for the affliction, Tutuor said.

"Tests show that their airways do constrict when they sniff certain things — they're not faking. But right now we can't identify a group of people who are at risk. Most of our patients were healthy. Most had no allergies and 35 per cent of them didn't smoke. There's just no identifiable target group."

The doctors said such cases often had been diagnosed as adult onset asthma, occupational asthma or intrinsic

asthma. William C. Houser, a pulmonary specialist and medical director of Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Indiana, said he is still not sure whether RADS is an entirely new category of disease or a form of asthma.

Houser said one problem is that the diagnosis is entirely clinical — the doctor makes his diagnosis on the basis of observations rather than lab work.

The pattern of the syndrome shows an unusually short exposure, sometimes under a minute, and an illness that continues to disable patients years later.

Flying in for pope's visit; Pontiff to bless bodies

21 die in Mexico plane crash

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico, May 11. (Reuters): A twin-engine commuter plane crashed and burned in a field outside this Mexican City yesterday killing at least 21 people, including a Mexican bishop flying in for Pope John Paul II's visit.

Initial reports from the scene of the crash outside Tuxtla Gutierrez said up to 27 people aboard had died. However, the head of government-run Aviaca Airlines, which owned the plane, told Reuters that 21 of the 38 people aboard had died.

The flight departed from the city of Tapa-

chula near the Guatemalan border for Tuxtla Gutierrez, about 600 km (375 miles) southeast of Mexico City.

Tuxtla's bishop, Monsignor Felipe Aguirre Franco, told reporters that Bishop Luis Miguel Canton Marin, 49, of Tapachula, as well as two other priests died in the crash.

Rescue workers said the bishop's cross and Bible were among personal belongings pulled from the fire-gutted fuselage.

Pope John Paul II is due to arrive today for a brief visit and say a mass before departing for the nearby city of Villahermosa.

Five survivors walked away with only minor injuries, according to Chiapas state government spokesman Eladio Castro. At least seven were listed in critical condition in hospital.

Survivor Luis Calderon, 43, told Reuters, "I am very Catholic and I prayed a lot but I don't consider this a miracle. I feel it's just part of my life."

Calderon, who was almost untouched in the crash, said he pulled three children from the burning fuselage after the crash. Rescue officials said at least two other children died.



A nun cries with emotion while listening to the pope deliver a mass at the Santa Katarina River on Thursday, for more than 20 people who died during a 1988 hurricane when their buses were washed into the river. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rescue workers carry away the bodies of those who died when a Fokker F-27 crashed on Thursday in the outskirts of Tuxtla Gutierrez, 600 kms (375 miles) southeast of Mexico City. At least 20 persons died in the crash. (Reuters wirephoto)

2.2m hard-core addicts in US

WASHINGTON, May 11. (AP): Nearly 2.2 million Americans are hard-core cocaine addicts, more than double the official count of those who use the drug at least once a week, according to a Senate report released yesterday.

"This news is as alarming as it is tragic. It suggests that we have a hard-core addict problem that is far worse than virtually every previous estimate of its scope," Sen. Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, said in a statement.

Some states have "extraordinarily high concentrations," with one in every 40 people in New York considered a hard-core user, according to the Senate judiciary committee report.

The US capital has the highest per capita rate, 32.9 weekly users among

Six new charges on Barry

WASHINGTON, May 11. (Reuters): Mayor Marion Barry, already facing eight drug-related charges, was charged yesterday with six more counts of conspiracy and cocaine possession.

The indictment poses new legal problems for Barry, one of the most prominent and controversial US black politicians whose case has attracted international attention.

The conspiracy charge alleged that Barry from 1984 until last January obtained, possessed and used cocaine powder and "crack" cocaine with more than 10 persons at more than 20 locations — including residences, hotels, government offices and businesses — inside and outside the United States.

It alleged that he provided cash to buy the drugs and drug-related paraphernalia.

every 1,000 Washington residents, the report said.

The findings, prepared under the supervision of Mark A.R. Kleiman of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, under-

scored a dispute between Biden and a number of other lawmakers and the administration of President George Bush over whether to aim the thrust of the drug war against hard-core or casual users.

Pontiff attacks family planning

MONTERREY, Mexico, May 11. (AP): Pope John Paul II launched an assault on family planning and materialism as he hoppedscotched across northern Mexico.

The Pope yesterday drew more than 500,000 people, the largest crowd of his eight-day trip, for his homily on "the sanctification of work" in Mexico's third largest city.

"Without denying the good results obtained ... where a free system reigns," said the Pope, "we still must be blind to the defects of an economic system that not infrequently makes riches and consumption its principal engine."

The throng, gathered on a riverbed and surrounding hills, roared and waved acres of flags and pennants as the pontiff spoke. Above the altar was a billboard reading "Welcome, John Paul II." Flanked by two ads for Carta Blanca beer, one of the city's largest industries.

Earlier, in Chihuahua, John Paul criticised this largely Roman Catholic country's family planning programme called for freedom of religious education and demanded greater parental input on sex education in public schools.

Today, he flew to the southeastern city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, where he was to preside over a memorial to pilgrims killed in a Thursday air crash. The Pope also was to deliver a homily in Spanish and three Indian languages. The plane had been carrying pilgrims to see the Pope when it crashed before landing at Tuxtla Gutierrez; among the 27 dead was the bishop of Tapachula, a city near the border with Guatemala.

In Chihuahua the Pope launched an impassioned attack on artificial contraception, a controversial issue in Mexico, which has one of the Third World's most successful family planning programmes and where the church is banned from taking political positions.

"If, in the conjugal union, the possibility of conceiving a child is artificially eliminated, the couple closed themselves to God and opposed his will," John Paul said in morning homily dedicated to the family on Mother's Day.

"We have never had a Mother's Day as noble and beautiful as this," said Maria Luisa Lopez Martinez, 56, of Durango, who came to Chihuahua with her mother and sister.

Cancer test soon

Smoking cuts 18 years off life

OTTAWA, May 11. (Agencies): Canada announced yesterday it had developed a computer-based cancer test that can find the disease at its earliest stages following a 10-minute procedure.

"Undoubtedly it's going to save lives," Dr Henry Mantch, a scientist for the government's national research council said in a television interview.

The new method, which could be ready for use in hospital in two years, was developed by the council and Dr Basil Rigas of Cornell University in Ithaca.

The new system, called the WR-diapoc, can detect cancers in the earliest stages and distinguish between benign and malignant tumours, according to council documents. The sample size needed for the test is small and may be obtained by a needle. The whole procedure can be completed within 10 minutes and can be done by a technician after only brief training.

Dr Jack Laidlaw at the Canadian Cancer Society said he wanted to see more information before calling the new method a major breakthrough in the fight against cancer.

"I don't know if it's going to make a difference in saving someone's life," he said.

It is expected the new system will be in use in hospitals within two years and it is hoped the procedures could also be used in the detection of other diseases.

Meanwhile, a Canadian researcher with the national research council has invented a revolutionary new method for the detection of cancer.

Patrick Wong, a physicist-chemist, has developed the new diagnostic method he calls molecular spectroscopy. It will eliminate false diagnosis, make them cheaper and simpler and above all provide them earlier than current tests, thus giving patients more time to fight the disease.

"To our knowledge, the national research council is the only body in the world that can perform this diagnosis," said Wong.

To get a sample of suspected surgical procedure called a biopsy. But Wong's technique requires only a needle to withdraw a sample. The sample is then pressurised and placed into the molecular spectrometer, developed jointly by the National Council and Bomen Inc., a Quebec-city company.

The machine has 20 different ways of determining whether a cell is cancerous or not. One of them is the observation of the vibration of molecules. Healthy cells vibrate differently from cancer cells. Another way is to observe the structure of cells since "membranes are packed tighter" in cancerous cells.

Smoking cuts nearly 18 years off the life of the average male smoker, a study released recently said.

The study, which examined smoking habits and death age among 1,807 men living in Erie county, Pennsylvania, from 1972 to 1974, found a 30-year-old man who does not smoke can expect to live 17.9 years longer than one who smokes his entire lifetime.

The difference decreased with age — the average 50-year-old non-smoker lived about 13.5 years longer than a smoker, and a 75-year-old non-smoker enjoyed about 5.5 more years of life than a smoker, researchers said in a study published in the journal of the actuarial profession.

Robert J. Myers, former chief actuary for the social security administration, and his colleagues said they consider their study better than past efforts to gauge smoking's impact on lifespan because it made adjustments for non-respondents and looked at a large percentage of a total population.

US lacks clear course in space: study

WASHINGTON, May 11. (Reuters): The US space programme lacks a clear course for the future despite the stated goals of missions to the moon and Mars, according to a congressional study.

Congress must decide what kinds of spacecraft it wants and then provide enough funding, said the three-year study by the congressional office of technology assessment.

"Because the lack of a clear future course for US space activities makes the scale and character of future demand for space transportation highly uncertain," the study said. "It is not sensible to choose among space transportation options without first selecting the specific goals to be served."

Last year President George Bush said the United States wanted to put a staffed base on the moon and send a mission to Mars in the next century. Both depend on the operation of space station freedom, the United States' long delayed orbiting space laboratory.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's plans for the space station have been criticised because of cost increases, delays and cutbacks that would affect European and Japanese partners in the enterprise.

Critics say the station is too big, noting that it would take as many as 20 shuttle launches to get the station assembled and an unknown number of launches before it could function as a construction outpost for a moon base.

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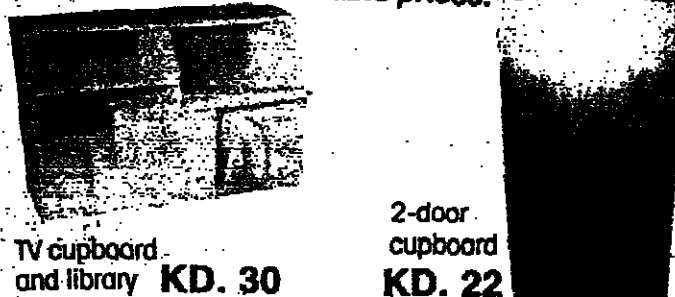
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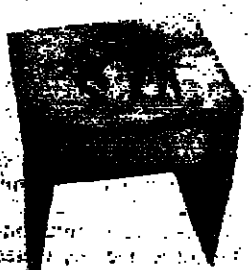
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43rd Annual Cannes Film Festival

Kurosawa's 'Dreams' leads

CANNES, France, May 11. (AP) International film stars covered on this French resort on Thursday for the start of the 43rd annual Cannes Film Festival, but the man of the hour was 80-year-old Japanese director Akira Kurosawa.

Kurosawa's new film, "Dreams", was the star at an afternoon preview that started 12 days of partying, salesmanship and awards-giving. Based on Kurosawa's own dreams, the film consists of eight separate segments ranging from a rendition of a filmmaker-artist confronting Vincent van Gogh in a wheat field to a nightmare about mountain

climbers facing death in a blizzard.

"Dreams" is not among the 19 films that will compete for the coveted top prize, the Golden Palm. This year's entries include offerings from the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, China, Burkina Faso, Great Britain and Italy.

The 10-member jury is headed by Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci and includes American actress Anjelica Huston, French actress Fanny Ardant, and English screenwriter Christopher Hampton, who wrote the English adaptation of "Lions' Den".



American director Clint Eastwood arrives on Thursday for the opening of the 43rd International Film Festival in Cannes on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)



American actor Anthony Quinn arrives with American actress Lauren Bacall at the festival palace for the opening ceremony of the 43rd International Film Festival in Cannes on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LOS ANGELES: Lindsay Wagner and film producer Lawrence Mortorff have tied the knot, the actress' publicist said.

Miss Wagner, 40, best known for "The Bionic Woman" television series, wed Mortorff at a private ceremony in west Los Angeles, said publicist Joel Benkay. He said the two met in November.

Mortorff's producer credits include the films "Maria's Lovers", "Lady Beare" and "Romero". It is the fourth marriage for Wagner and the second for 41-year-old Mortorff. Wagner has two sons from her previous marriage, Derian, 7, and Alex, 4. Mortorff has three daughters: Mortan, 10; Emily, 7; and Lily, 4. (AP)

DETROIT: It was the Bo and Be Show at Cobo Centre as the star of the movie "10" joined 2,000 people to honour the legendary ex-leader of the University of Michigan football programme. Actress Bo Derek was joined by Indiana University basketball coach Bob Knight, Penn state football coach Joe Paterno and other celebrities and sports figures who turned out for a tribute to Bo Schmeckler.

Schembechler resigned recently after 21 years as the Wolverines' coach to become president of the Detroit Tigers.

"He's such a ladies' man," Derek said, presenting him with a framed jersey with his name and the number 10, alluding to the movie that gained her fame. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA: Former US president Jimmy Carter has been named the 1990 recipient of the Philadelphia Liberty Medal for his involvement in "issues of liberty around the globe."

Carter will receive the medal and a \$100,000 cash award on the Fourth of July at Independence Hall.

The medal, established in 1988, honours an individual or organisation that has "demonstrated leadership or vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience or freedom from oppression, ignorance or deprivation."

The first medal was given last year to Polish leader Lech Walesa.

"President Carter was cited for his active involvement during the past few years in issues of liberty around the globe and his exemplary use of post-presidential period," said Martin Meyerson, president emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania and chairman of the 12-member selection commission.

The commission is made up of leaders from government, world affairs, education and business. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The Grammy-winning hard rock group Living Colour has won Fox Broadcasting Co., claiming the network's new "Living Colour" show stole the band's name and logo.

The lawsuit, filed in New York, seeks an injunction against Fox and producers of the Saturday night comedy as well as unspecified damages.

"In Living Colour" producer Tamara Rawitt declined to comment, as did Brad Turell, senior vice-president of Fox.

"In Living Colour" has received rave reviews and was 29th in the ratings during its April 15 debut.

Created by Keenan Ivory Wayans, who did the black satirical films "Hollywood Shuffle" and "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka", "In Living Colour" is a black version of "Saturday Night Live" that pokes fun at racial stereotypes with an almost all-black crew of comedians. (AP)

"We believe the uniform logo will enhance the existing voluntary system and better respond to the legitimate concerns of parents," Berman said.

"Now that we have agreed on this new logo, it will be up to parents to use it as they see fit," he said.

The standard label, which reads "parental advisory —

Top of the pops

O'Connor leads for third week

NEW YORK, May 11. (AP) "Nothing Compares 2 U" kept Sinéad O'Connor at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States for the third straight week.

"I Want To Be Rich" by Calloway hopped one notch to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart.

A new one by Madonna, entitled "Vogue," soared from 11th to 3rd.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Nothing Compares 2 U — Sinéad O'Connor (Chrysalis).
- (2) I Want To Be Rich — Calloway (Solar).
- (3) Vogue — Madonna (Sire-Warner Brothers).
- (4) How Can We Be Lovers — Michael Bolton (Columbia).
- (5) I Wanna Do — Heart (Capitol).
- (6) Whip Appeal — Baby Face (Solar).
- (7) Don't Want To Fall In Love — Jane Child (Warner Brothers).
- (8) What It Takes — Aerosmith (Geffen).
- (9) Alright — Janet Jackson (A and M).
- (10) All Around The World — Lisa Stansfield (Arista).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) I'm Over You — Keith Whitley (RCA).
- (2) The Domino Theory — Steve Wariner (MCA).
- (3) I Look Could Kill — Rodney Crowell (Columbia).
- (4) I Walkin' Away — Clem Black (RCA).
- (5) I Watched It All (On My Radio) — Lionel Cartwright (MCA).
- (6) Guardian Angel — The Judds (RCA).
- (7) Walking Shoes — Tanya Tucker (Capitol).
- (8) I've Cried My Last Tear — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia).
- (9) Help Me Hold On — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers).
- (10) Running With the Wind — Eddie Rabbit (Capitol).

ASBURY PARK, New Jersey: Bruce Springsteen says he will match the \$10,000 raised at a benefit concert for an organisation that helps unemployed workers and their families.

Springsteen has been supplementing state funding for the non-profit worker rescue centre over the last three years, said group director Stanley Fisher.

During the benefit, the rock star called Fischer from California, where he is recording an album, and pledged to match whatever amount was raised, Fischer said. (AP)

Parental warning label for albums unveiled

WASHINGTON, May 11. (AP) The recording industry unveiled a uniform, voluntary parental warning label for albums that might contain explicit lyrics.

Jay Berman, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, told a news conference that the black-and-white label will appear on the lower right-hand corner of possibly-objectionable records, cassettes and compact discs reaching retail stores starting in July.

"We believe the uniform logo will enhance the existing voluntary system and better respond to the legitimate concerns of parents," Berman said.

"Now that we have agreed on this new logo, it will be up to parents to use it as they see fit," he said.

The standard label, which reads "parental advisory —

explicit lyrics," will appear on albums at the discretion of record companies and individual artists.

Plans for the label were announced in late March at a convention of the National Association of Recording Merchandisers, which endorsed the idea at Wednesday's news conference.

That association, representing record retailers and distributors across the country, said, "our members hope that this voluntary step by the recording industry will put the nightmare of governmental regulation behind us."

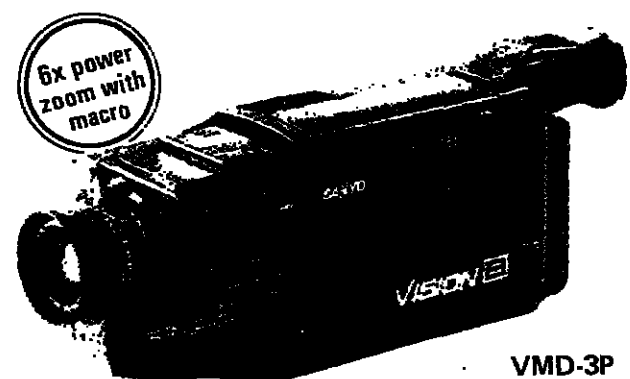
Berman said that by his count, 16 of the 19 states considering legislation requiring warning labels on records have backed away from those efforts since the industry promised to institute a uniform label on a voluntary basis.

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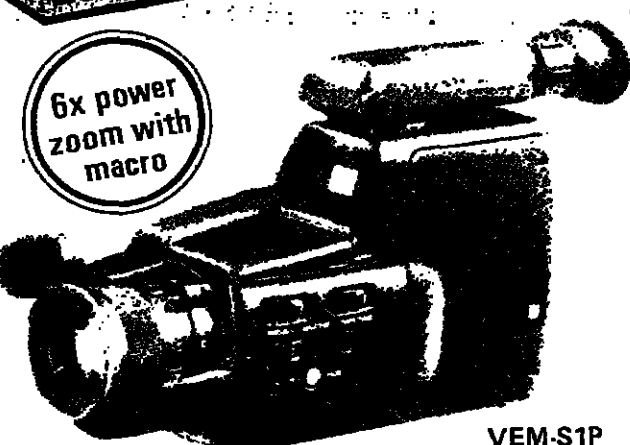


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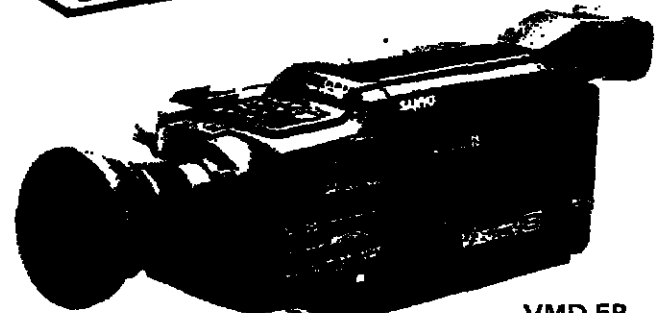
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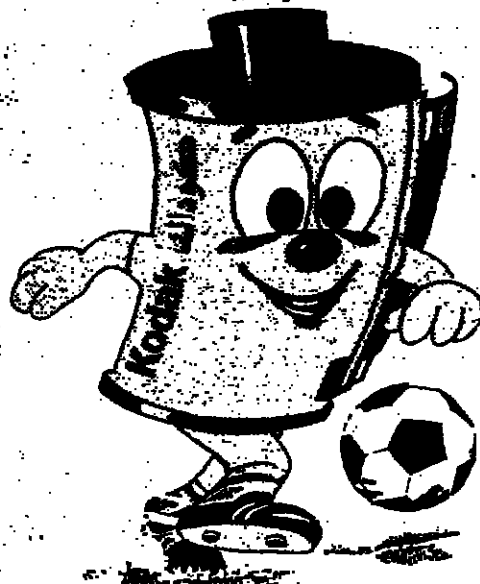
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Call for radical electoral reform

TOKYO, May 11, (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called yesterday for a radical revision of the electoral system, saying it is the only way to reduce the power of money in Japanese politics.

"It is clear to me that the public wants clean, easy to understand politics," Kaifu said in a nationally televised news conference. "I will bet the fate of my administration on achieving this reform."

Kaifu endorsed the recommendations of an advisory council that called for changing Japan's system of multiple-seat constituencies, reducing politicians' ability to raise money and tightening rules on reporting political donations.

"Looking back on the Recruit influence-peddling scandal, it is the central theme of my administration to clear political distrust and shift elections from a race of individuals to one of political parties," he said.

Kaifu, 59, took office last August after two previous prime ministers were forced to resign in quick succession over influence-peddling and sex scandals.

Initially seen as a stop-gap prime minister because he lacked a power base within the governing Liberal Democratic Party, Kaifu has gained public support with his clean image and efforts to ease US-Japan trade friction.

Analysts express scepticism, however, over his chances of succeeding in changing Japan's electoral system.

"Mr Kaifu knows very well about where his weaknesses and his strengths are," said Takashi Inoguchi, a political science professor at Tokyo University. "An appeal for such reforms is guaranteed to boost his popularity which he needs to stay in power."

"While some politicians are aware that electoral reforms are essential to wipe out money politics, it is too risky for most of them to accept such drastic reforms. When there is no guarantee that they can be re-elected under the new electoral system, I don't think many politicians are willing to accept such risks," the professor said.

Kaifu to apologise to Asia for WWII expansions

TOKYO, May 11, (UPI): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told Parliament today he will apologise to Asia for Japan's military expansion before and during World War II when he meets South Korean President Roh Tae Woo next week.

Roh is scheduled to make his first official visit to Japan May 24-26.

"I'm not going to apologise only to President Roh. I keenly feel responsible for Japan's past conduct and I will address myself to the Korean peninsula, China and Asia as a whole," the prime minister said.

Roh will make his trip as Japanese debated how far Emperor Akihito should go in apologising Japan's 35-year

colonial rule over the Korean peninsula until the end of World War II in 1945.

Roh will have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during his tour and address the plenary session of the lower house of parliament.

Riot police in Seoul with shields surrounded about 100 elderly protesters who were marching to the Japanese Embassy today to demand an apology and compensation for Japan's wartime actions.

The protesters, many in their 60s and 70s and related to Koreans who were killed during World War II, sat down on the street after being blocked by about 200 riot police about 30 metres (100 feet) from the Japanese Embassy.

SEoul, May 11, (AP): The tens of thousands of young people who battled South Korean police this week are a paradox.

As university students, the idealistic, highly organised radicals are the pride and joy of a nation that equates education with success and prosperity. As international symbols of militance, they are a deep embarrassment in a society that values harmony.

Koreans generally sympathise with student protesters, though without necessarily agreeing with their opinions — characterised by anti-American rhetoric and calls for unity with North Korea — or violent tactics.

On Wednesday, tens of thousands of students battled riot police in Seoul and 16 other cities to demand the ouster of President Roh Tae-woo.

The violence coincided with the inaugural convention of the newly created Democratic Liberal Party. Opponents contend the gigantic new government party, a merger of three political groups, will lead to dictatorship.

Radicals oppose the government, but offer little solid plans on how a new leader could do better.

The government says most of the radical students are naive leftists who have been

brainwashed by communist North Korea teachings. Some of them, the government has said, may be communist agents.

They wear American jeans and sneakers, carry their books in backpacks and look like college students everywhere. They go to some of the best schools in South Korea.

The radicals number only about five per cent of the roughly one million students in college. Other students listen to their rallies, read their newspapers and may agree with some of their thinking, but usually do not join the militants in their battles with riot police.

Radicals claim Washington makes decisions for a Seoul puppet government.

They demand the withdrawal of 43,000 US troops based in South Korea because they say their presence hinders unification talks with North Korea.

"Korea is one," they shout at rallies. Campuses are adorned with colourful banners two and three stories high that show radical students striding the border between the two Koreas.

None of the students are old enough to remember the bloody 1950-53 Korean war, launched by North Korea to communise the South, a war in which five million Americans served. Some of them say they have never talked to an American.

The radical movement consists of both

men and women students and is organised along a strict line of authority. Training retreats are held to indoctrinate recruits.

At protests, women collect rocks, wave banners, tend to injuries and sing support songs. Men deployed in platoon fashion hurl firebombs and rocks.

The radical student movement lost momentum after President Roh took office in February 1988 in the country's first direct presidential elections in 16 years and promised broad democratic reforms.

The smaller numbers forced radicals to become more violent to be noticed. Some began to use homemade explosives.

The government downplays the significance of violent protests, but privately worries they could breed discontent among older Koreans, especially labourers who often feel underprivileged and underpaid.

Koreans traditionally feel students are the only selfless group in society to fight perceived wrongs. Students have no families to support, no jobs to protect.

Virtually all Koreans can recite student deeds in the 1919 uprising against Japanese colonial rule, in the 1960 toppling of the government of president Syngman Rhee and the 1987 protests that opened the doors to democratic reforms.



Korean police arrest one of the six students who raided the office of National Tax administration building in Seoul May 11. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pitched street battles in Seoul

SEoul, May 11, (AP): Radicals fought riot police in scattered street battles in Seoul and other cities for a second consecutive day despite the government's warning yesterday that it would crack down on the violence.

Groups of 200 to 500 students chanting "down with President Roh Tae-woo" staged protests in Seoul. Riot police moved in swiftly to drive the protesters off the streets.

Thousands of riot police were deployed in downtown Seoul yesterday, the day after radical students and dissidents clashed with them in the capital's central shopping district during the evening rush hour.

Shortly before nightfall, the police fired volleys of tear-gas to disperse about 1,500 students who had hurled firebombs at them. The students were marching after occupying a main street on the eastern edge of the capital's downtown shopping areas.

News reports said thousands of radical students armed with rocks, steel pipes and firebombs also battled police outside about 40 university campuses around the country.

Police did not say how many protesters were arrested. They arrested 1,864 protesters in Wednesday's street demonstrations in Seoul and 16 other cities, the largest and most violent protests since Roh took office in February 1988.

About 100,000 students and dissidents battled riot police nationwide Wednesday, demanding that Roh resign and cancel the January merger of his governing party with two small opposition groups. The three parties formed the large Democratic Liberal Party now governing the country.

Opposition politicians and radical students contend that the merger was a "political coup d'etat" since it was not the result of an election.

On Wednesday, 247 police were injured in the clashes with the radicals, who attacked 24 police substations, ruling party offices and government buildings, the authorities said. An office of the US Information Service Centre in Seoul was gutted by firebombs.

Roh's government warned yesterday it would move swiftly and forcefully to block labour and political violence, but dissidents vowed to stage more protests aimed at overthrowing his government.

"Let's destroy the pro-American fascist," shouted some 200 dissident leaders and supporters at a rally at Myungdong cathedral, the nation's Roman Catholic headquarters, in central Seoul.

The dissidents used loudspeakers to urge citizens to rise up against what they called Roh's dictatorship. But access to the cathedral was restricted, and only some women and old people were permitted through the barricades formed by hundreds of combat-clad riot troops.

Fifty-one workers came down from the top of a huge crane at South Korea's largest shipyard yesterday, ending a 13-day strike that paralysed company operations.

The workers occupied the crane after police raided the yard of the Hyundai Heavy Industries Company on April 28 to end a strike.

China denies Deng ill

Rumours ripple Asian markets; 211 freed

BEIJING, May 11, (Agencies): Rumours that Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping is seriously ill had rippled through Asian financial markets today, but the Foreign Ministry denied it.

"The so-called report is a sheer fabrication with ulterior motives," the ministry said in a one-sentence statement.

Egyptian officials travelling with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the President was scheduled to meet with Deng on Sunday morning, lending support to the Chinese denial.

Tokyo markets did not react perceptibly but brokers in Hong Kong

blamed the rumours for a 24.96-point drop in the Hang Seng index, the stock market's key indicator of blue chips.

Deng, 85, has not been seen in public since February, when he met with a delegation from Hong Kong. He stepped down in March from his last official post, as chairman of the government military commission, and even before then had stopped routinely seeing visitors.

Chinese sources say Deng, a chain smoker, suffers from cancer. He speaks with some difficulty and walks shakily. The government has refused to give details about his health.

Learned English in jail

'I am well': Dai Qing

BEIJING, May 11, (Reuters): A Chinese political dissident released from jail after being arrested for her role in last year's democracy campaign said today she was in good health and spent her time in prison studying English.

Dai Qing, a reporter who was jailed after a crackdown on dissent last June, told Reuters by telephone from her Beijing apartment that she had been released on Wednesday.

"I am well," she said, apparently in good spirits despite her 10-month confinement.

"I ate well. I had two hours of exercise every day."

She said she studied English every day and demonstrated her newly polished skills in the language.

"My textbook was sent from home. It was called English discovery," she said in English.

Dai, an author and reporter at the official Guangming Daily, was active in a campaign for press freedoms, part of a nationwide movement for political reform crushed by the army last June.

She was among numerous activists — as well as ordinary



Dai Qing shown at a women's meeting to discuss the questions on women at Beijing University May 11 (Reuters wirephoto)

citizens — rounded up after troops smashed their way into Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, killing hundreds, if not thousands of people.

Yesterday, the official New China News Agency announced that she and several other prominent dissidents were among 211 "lawbreakers" freed in what was called an act of leniency.

Western diplomats said the move was an attempt to ease ten-

sion ahead of the anniversary of the crackdown and to help repairs with the West which have been badly strained since the brutal incident.

Authorities are concerned about possible protests this year and they have tightened security around the Chinese capital. They also have warned people to stay away from Tiananmen Square, the centre of last year's campaign.

Democracy ship plans in danger

TAIPEI, May 11, (AP): Organisers of the Goddess of Democracy radio ship said today their plans to beam pro-democracy broadcasts to China are in danger because of possible restrictions on access to Taiwanese ports.

Meanwhile, the military reported sighting a submarine near the radio ship Wednesday and renewed earlier pledges to protect the vessel if it is attacked near Taiwan.

Officials at the northern port of Keelung today granted the 1,200-ton ship permission to dock to take on provisions before heading for international waters to make the broadcasts. The vessel is expected to arrive Sunday.

But Communications Minister Chang Chien-pang said the ship would not be allowed back if it makes unauthorized broadcasts that violate international law.

Pascal Dupont, a journalist for the French news magazine Actuel, said Chang's announcement came as a "big surprise" and could force the ship to drop the project.

"We came with a peaceful purpose," Dupont said. "We are legal and moral."

He said organisers "do not agree with (the Taiwan) government's position but we respect it. We will try to convince the government of our peaceful purpose and make it soften the position."

Dupont said the ship would have to take on provisions after a planned three-week broadcast mission in international waters. There are few other viable ports in the region, since Hong Kong already has ruled out allowing the vessel to dock.



Chen seriously ill

Chen Yun, the second most powerful man in China after Deng Xiaoping is now critically ill, according to a Japanese newspaper report May 11. The Communist Party is preparing to mourn the 84-year-old hardliner, though the sources didn't give the exact nature of his illness. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aya wedding plans take shape

Will be heavy with pomp, tradition

TOKYO, May 11, (AP): Japan's royal wedding, which officials announced today would be held in June, will be heavy with pomp and tradition.

In one of the final formalities before the ceremony, imperial messenger Yasuo Shigetani, dressed in a sombre grey morning coat and carrying a silk top hat, called on Prince Aya's fiancée, Kiko Kawashima, and her parents at their home today to inform them the royal nuptials are to be held on June 29.

Miss Kawashima lives with her parents and younger brother in an apartment on the campus of Gakushuin University, where she is a student of psychology and where her father, Tatsuhiko, teaches economics.

Gakushuin is Aya's alma mater, and where he met his 23-year-old fiancée.

For the past two years Aya has been studying zoology — he has a particular interest in catfish — at Oxford University, and he is expected to return to Japan until less than two weeks before the ceremony.

Aya, 24, will be the first imperial family member to marry since Emperor Akihito's cousin, Prince Norihito, wed in December 1984. Aya is next in line to the chrysanthemum throne after his brother, Crown Prince Naruhito, who is 30 and has yet to choose a bride.

The marriage date was unofficially selected soon after Aya's engagement received unanimous approval last September by the imperial household council, a 10-member body headed by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

But details of how the government plans to conduct the wedding and parties afterward, for which it has allotted roughly \$1 million (150 million yen), remained vague until a palace announcement early this month.

According to palace officials, the short ceremony will begin at 10:00 am (10:00 GMT) at a shrine to the sun goddess Amaterasu, from whom legend says the imperial line descends.

The newlyweds, wearing silk robes similar to ancient court attire, will join themselves in marriage by sipping sacred rice wine from a shallow, lacquered cup.

Taiwan PM, cabinet quit

Hau to take over

TAIPEI, May 11, (Reuters): Taiwan Premier Lee Huan and his cabinet resigned yesterday. President Lee Teng-hui will appoint his chief military adviser as prime minister in what analysts see as a dangerous political gamble.

Lee Huan, whose rocky year as premier has been marked by sharp disputes with the president, will be replaced by current defence minister and long-time army boss Hau Pei-tsun.

As Taiwan's longest-serving Chief of General Staff, Hau provided the military muscle behind late presidents Chiang Kai-shek and Chiang Ching-kuo.

Students and the opposition have labelled him a potential military strongman and a threat to Taiwan's emerging democracy.

Political analysts say Lee is bargaining that the new cabinet, backed by Hau's appeal among elderly Nationalist Party veterans and powered by young, Western-educated technocrats, will strengthen his hand in pushing through reforms.

"There is greater power-sharing, so the whole team will be more powerful," said Ding Ting-yu, chairman of the independent public opinion research foundation. "They will be willing to co-operate (with Lee)," he added.

Lee Huan and the cabinet handed in pro-forma resignations yesterday, but will serve as a caretaker government until the new premier is sworn in on June 1, cabinet secretary-general Wang Chao-ming said.

The new cabinet assignments will become official after Lee Teng-hui is inaugurated on May 20. Students and labour groups opposed to Hau's premiership have promised to mark the day with protests.

Lee Huan has been offered a new post as a presidential adviser, but has not yet decided whether to accept.

Lee Teng-hui has struggled to strengthen his grip on power since he became both president and chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party upon the death of Chiang Ching-kuo in January, 1988.

He was given a new term by the electoral college on March 21, but only after conservative Nationalist Party elders with the implicit backing of Lee Huan challenged his authority by suggesting an alternate ticket.

As the shape of the new cabinet is slowly revealed, it is clear that Lee Teng-hui is making a concerted effort to consolidate his control of the government.

His chief political ally, Nationalist Party secretary-general James Soong, will hold onto his post despite fierce criticism from elderly Nationalist conservatives who are opposed to his reformist stance.

Foreign Minister Lien Chan, another key Lee ally, will take over the powerful post of Taiwan provincial governor. Foreign affairs will go to Fredrik Chien, a suave diplomat who has served as Taipei's unofficial ambassador in Washington and lately as chairman of the Council for Economic Planning and Development.



Lee being applauded by his cabinet May 10 in Taipei (Reuters wirephoto)

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Written by John Garufi

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Police, protesters clash in Denmark

ELLSINORE, Denmark, May 11. (UPI) Riot police charged hundreds of anti-racism demonstrators today following anti-police violence at the end of a meeting of right-wing European Parliament members.

The 17-member meeting, which started yesterday included France's National Front Party leader Jean-Marie Le Pen and West German Republican Party leader Franz Schönhuber.

Riot police sealed off the Marienlyst hotel in this Danish town 30 km (18 miles) north of Copenhagen, to prevent demonstrators from approaching the Congress centre where Le Pen and Schönhuber held a press briefing to close the meeting.

More than 600 banner-bearing demonstrators protested outside, held at bay by riot police and police dogs.

But following Le Pen's departure through an hotel back entrance, a small group of Balclava helmet-clad and masked activists began throwing firecrackers and stones at police units.

Despite appeals by demonstration leaders, the group — members of the BZ anarchist Danish youth organisation — continued to attack officers, and riot police counter-attacked.

Police said two demonstrators were detained and two police officers were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Demonstrations continued this afternoon in Ellsinore centre and riot police were to continue patrolling the town until evening.

Earlier, during a press briefing, Le Pen told reporters that he firmly condemned the desecration Wednesday of 34 graves at a Jewish cemetery in the French town of Carpentras.

"This macabre event was carried out by professional provocateurs," Le Pen said.

Jew cemetery desecrated

Shock waves in France; Le Pen accused

PARIS, May 11. (Agencies) Interior Minister Pierre Joxe said today that extreme right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen must take responsibility for the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in which the body of an elderly man was dug up and impaled on an umbrella.

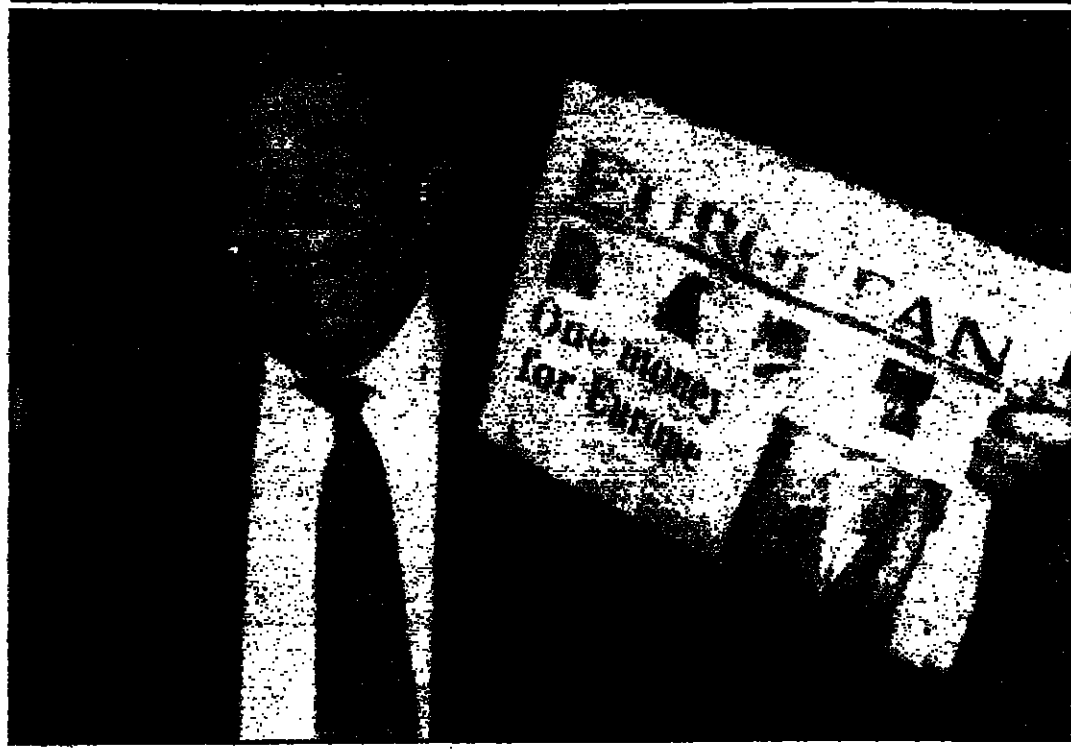
Le Pen charged that the desecration discovered yesterday was a sham staged to defame the extreme right.

France's National Assembly suspended its session for 15 minutes this morning in honour of the dead at the cemetery in Carpentras. Leaders across the political spectrum reacted with outrage at the

desecration. Thirty-four tombs at the cemetery were desecrated by vandals at the cemetery in the south-central town of Carpentras.

Joxe said several of the tombs were left "in conditions so abominable that one can't describe them without embarrassment." He travelled to the town to inspect the site.

President Francois Mitterrand went "as one does for a family in mourning" to the Paris home of France's chief rabbi, Joseph Sitruk, to express his distress and solidarity.



European launched

British press magnate Robert Maxwell holds up the first issue of his latest weekly newspaper 'The European' during a champagne-breakfast held in London May 11 to celebrate its launch. The paper that will come out every Friday, is to be printed in Germany, France and the UK. (Reuters wirephoto)

Argentine ambassador arrives in London

LONDON, May 11. (AP) The first Argentine ambassador to Britain since the Falkland Islands war said today that he believes the two countries will resolve their differences in coming years.

Both countries still claim sovereignty over the British colony, which the Argentines call the Malvinas.

"The Malvinas are still there but what is important is that the two countries have established diplomatic relations and we are convinced that we are on the way to building up a new special relation-

ship between the two countries in so many aspects," Mario Campora said as he arrived at Heathrow airport.

Argentina recently restored diplomatic and air links that were severed during the conflict in 1982. Campora said he had been instructed by President Carlos Menem to do his best to improve relations in every area.

"We have to renew some of the deep links that existed between our countries for more than a century and a half," he told reporters.

"A civilisation which doesn't respect the dead is headed toward destruction of the living," Sitruk said.

Police said the body of an 81-year-old man who had died about two weeks ago was found impaled on an umbrella when the desecration was discovered early Thursday. Grave markers were knocked over and flower pots were trampled, but no graffiti was found.

The desecration occurred two days after a nation-wide telecast of a three-hour documentary about Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, and on the night when Le Pen was special guest on a TV political talk show.

Le Pen said the desecration was a "sham." "This macabre staging... could only have been authorized by professional provocateurs," said Le Pen, whose extreme-right National Front has been accused of condoning anti-Semitism and other forms of racism.

The interior minister said Le Pen himself was a "racist and provocateur."

Nobel peace prize winner Elie Wiesel, who left the gala dinner opening the Cannes film festival after learning of the desecration, said that a racist climate was on the rise in France and growing dangerous.

"French society must now examine its conscience and urgently," he said.

Carpentras, with a population of about 26,000, is about 100 kms (60 miles) north of Marseille. Its mayor, Jean-Claude Andrieu, described it as a quiet town in which the Jewish community lived harmoniously.

There have been several incidents of vandalism at Jewish cemeteries in recent years, most recently when anti-Semitic slogans were scrawled on tombs near Paris late last year.

The mayor told reporters outside the tightly-guarded cemetery that he believed several people took part in the desecration because of the extent of the damage.

"They must have used equipment like crowbars because some of the tombstones they moved weighed over 100 kilos (220 pounds)," he said. Police said today a previously unknown group called "Mohammed Al Boukina" had claimed responsibility.

A man, speaking in French and Arabic, telephoned the police station in Carpentras to say it carried out the attack, police inspector Roland Magnat told reporters.

Magnat said the caller gave no reason for the attack and police had no way yet of judging the authenticity of his claim.

Churchill

'Murder one German each'

LONDON, May 11. (AP) Sir Winston Churchill ordered his wife and daughter-in-law to kill at least one German each if the Nazis succeeded in invading Britain in World War II, his grandson said on Wednesday.

Winston Churchill, a conservative legislator, told the story at a dinner given at 10 Downing Street by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher marking the 50th anniversary of Churchill's appointment to lead the country on May 10, 1940, after Neville Chamberlain resigned.

Churchill said his mother, Pamela, told him of the incident, which took place after the fall of France in 1940 when the Germans were planning an invasion.

European comes out

Maxwell launches

Vision of unity

LONDON, May 11. (AP) It's 9:45 am and already publisher Robert Maxwell is running late.

He jabs at his telephone console and, in a booming baritone voice, lambasts someone at the other end about distribution problems in Germany.

Another call, and Maxwell launches into an interview with a London radio station.

It's part of a hectic countdown to Friday when the 66-year-old tycoon launches his latest venture, a pan-European, weekly.

The 64-page English-language newspaper, the European, will have an initial print run of 1 million copies, selling for 50 pence (84 US cents) apiece. Half in colour, the weekly has three sections: main news, business and sports, and a 32-page tabloid lifestyle and arts section, titled Eitan.

The theatre listings include what's on from Amsterdam to Zagreb. A dummy edition has front page stories from Moscow, Berlin and Paris, and inside are congratulatory letters from, among other, Poland's Lech Walesa and Anglo-French actress Charlotte Rampling.

Actor Peter Ustinov writes a column, and the mostly British editorial staff of 100 includes some top reporters hired away from the Sunday Times and the Observer, as well as contributors from the continent.

With the crumbling of the East-West divide in Europe and moves toward closer unity of the 12-nation European Economic Community, Maxwell believes the European is an idea whose time has come.

"The Europeans have ended their stupid nationalism," he says. "We're in the business of uniting Europe."

The paper is being printed in London, Frankfurt, Roubaix in France, and near Budapest in Hungary.

Maxwell rails against those sceptical about the viability of the European as "uninformed, biased scribbles." He says the newspaper is unique and he'll back it for "as long as Europe is around."

From his penthouse at Maxwell House in London, Maxwell runs a global publishing and communications empire spanning two dozen countries.

"I've taken on the role of editor-in-chief for this newspaper because the Europeans want to have a guarantee that this isn't just some perfunctory alibi for a European newspaper on the natives on the continent," he explains to the London radio reporter.

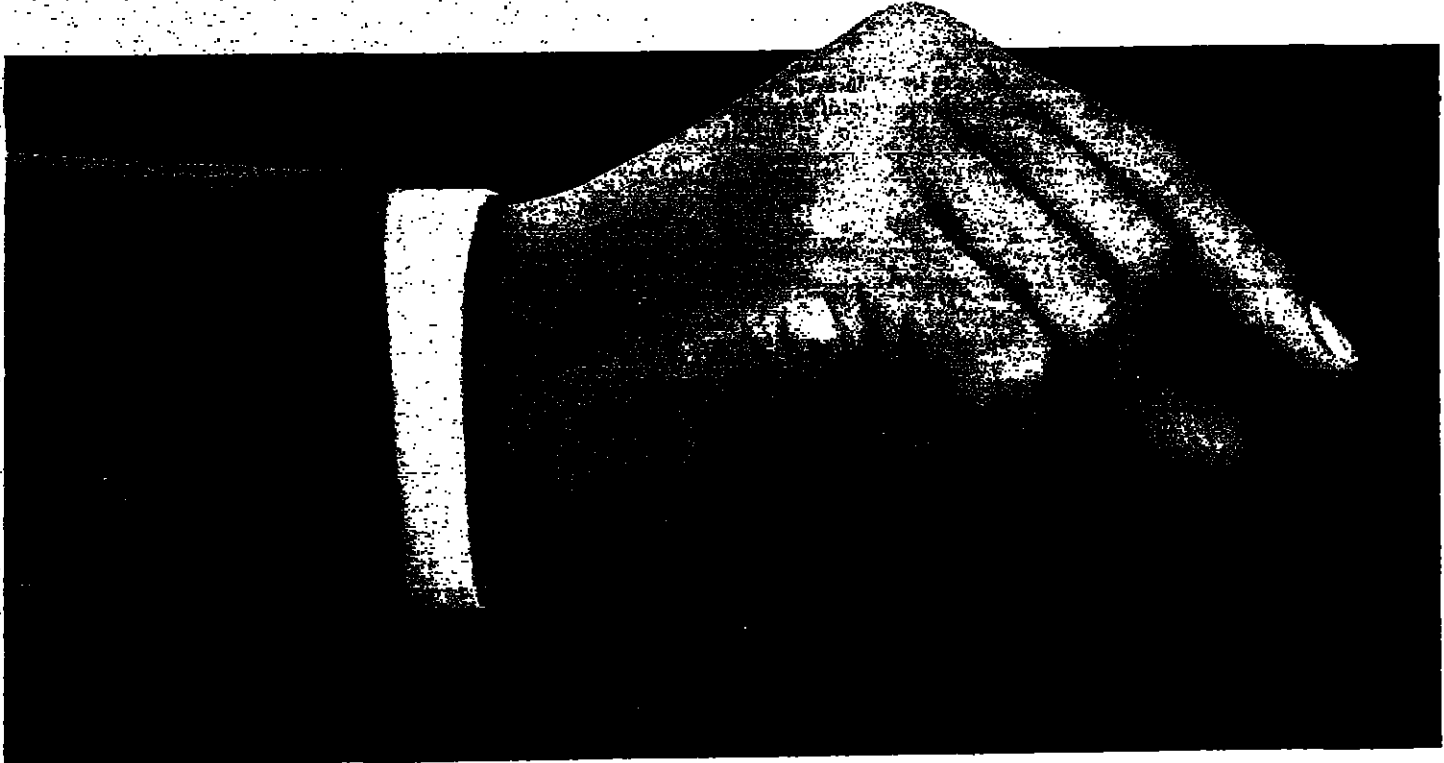
"And since I'm born in Czechoslovakia, speak a lot of European languages and everyone knows I'm more patriotic than the natives of this country, I'm virtually tailor-made for the job."

Maxwell, Britain's second biggest newspaper publisher after Rupert Murdoch, is launching the European as part of the Mirror group of newspapers which he bought in 1984. It includes the 3.89 million circulation tabloid daily Mirror.

usastic recorder of what it called great events unparalleled since the times of the ancient Roman Empire.

The first edition also carried articles about the struggle in the Baltic republics for indepen-

dence from the Soviet Union, an article in the business section by the president of the West German Bundesbank, Karl Otto Pohl, and an interview in the arts section with playwright Vaclav Havel, the president of Czechoslovakia.



Clash over definition of bribery

TOKYO, May 11. (AP) Prosecutors and defendants in a major influence-peddling case today debated the definition of bribery in Japan, where gift-giving is deeply rooted in the culture.

A former executive of Recruit Co., an information conglomerate at the centre of the stocks-for-influence affair, testified that he had distributed millions of bargain-priced shares of stock to the aides of influential politicians as a sign of friendship, but he denied any bribery intent.

Shunjiro Mamiya, 46, former Recruit executive chairman Hiromasa Eisei sold up to 10,000 share shares in a subsidiary to dozens of secretaries of powerful politicians, including former prime ministers.

"We determined the volume of shares to be sold to each buyer based on the depth and the length of the relationship between Recruit and each of them," said Mamiya, and added that he was in charge of distributing shares in political circles. "But we did not take it into consideration that they did us a favour or not. It was a pure sign of thankfulness."

In the Recruit scandal, which erupted in 1988, the information and publishing conglomerate distributed millions of bargain-priced shares in the subsidiary in 1986 shortly before the stocks were listed on the public market.

Share prices shot up immediately after the stock began trading over the counter, and pre-listing buyers of the stocks earned hefty profits effortlessly. In most cases, Recruit financed the transaction through its financial subsidiary, allowing buyers to gain profits without investing any money.

Hillary's son succeeds

Finally conquers Everest

World balloon trip

AUCKLAND, May 11. (Reuters) "We're thrilled to bits that you are finally standing on top of the old mountain," Mount Everest's first conqueror, Sir Edmund Hillary, told his son Peter, who was standing on the summit of the world's highest peak.

In a radio-telephone link-up through radio New Zealand yesterday, the elder Hillary was asked how he felt. "Perhaps, slightly nostalgic," he said.

"What is it, 37 years since you were up here?" Peter Hillary asked his father.

Hillary, 71, scaled Everest with Nepalese Sherpa Tensing Norkay on May 29, 1953.

"Congratulations to you all. Everyone here is delighted at your success," the elder Hillary replied. "It's been a bit of a struggle over the years."

Peter Hillary, 34, who makes his living writing about his climbing ventures, has been dogged by bad luck in previous climbs. On two expeditions he had to be rescued while others in his team died.

Accompanied by New Zealanders Rob Hall and Gary Ball, he retraced the same route followed by his father.

Also four climbers from the United States, Australia, Belgium and Sweden climbed the 29,029-foot (8,848-m) high Mt Everest through the normal southeast ridge route yesterday

WASHINGTON, May 11. (AP) An airline pilot, a British tycoon and a Soviet cosmonaut Wednesday announced that they will make the first-ever attempt to circle the world non-stop in a balloon.

No one has tried to float around the earth before, primarily because the Soviet Union refused to allow a balloon in its airspace, said project leader and captain Larry Newman of Arizona.

"Only three years ago, such a trip as this would have been considered unthinkable," agreed co-captain Richard Branson of the United Kingdom.

"The political climate was not right," said Newman.

But Newman said the Soviet space agency Glavkosmos last year not only agreed to allow the expedition but offered a flying partner, cosmonaut Vladimir Dzhanibekov.

Newman, a pilot, made the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight in 1978 and holds the world record for the longest distance covered in a balloon, 5,209 miles (8,383 kilometres) across the Pacific ocean in 1981.

Branson successfully crossed the Atlantic in a hot-air balloon in 1987. Dzhanibekov, a pilot, is chief of the agency's cosmonaut training department and has been in space five times.

In addition to opportunities resulting from new Soviet openness, weather forecasting and building materials have vastly improved, Newman said.

and today, the Nepalese Ministry of Tourism said today.

The first step on the highest point on earth today was Andrew Lapkass, 32, a ski instructor from Estes Park, Colorado, along with the first Swede to climb Everest, Mikel Reutersward, 26, an investment banker from Scotland, at 9:30 am the ministry said.

Fifteen minutes later, Tim McCartney Snape, 34, a mountain guide and the leader of the six-member Australian geographic expedition, stepped on the summit, the ministry said.

Yesterday, Belgian Rudy van Snick, 34, a mountain guide with

an eight-member New Zealand international expedition, also scaled Everest through the normal southeast ridge, the ministry said today.

The first joint climb of Mount Everest by US, Soviet and Chinese mountaineers yesterday broke the record for the number of climbers from the same expedition to scale the world's highest peak.

Although one turned back, six climbers made it to the 29,029-foot (8,848-m) summit, bringing to 20 the number of climbers from the expedition to conquer the mountain, including the first Soviet female climber to do so.

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Disarm whites, blacks demand

JOHANNESBURG, May 11. (Agencies): Black South African groups, alarmed by a spate of racial attacks by white ultra-rightists, demanded today that the government remove the millions of private guns in white hands.

"We demand that the government immediately disarm all white civilians who are not immediately connected to either the security or police forces," said a statement by the United Democratic Front which links anti-apartheid groups.

According to official figures about one million South Africans possess 2.8 million private firearms. The figure has doubled in the past 10 years.

The government will not release a racial breakdown of ownership, but licensing policy until recently did not allow blacks to own guns.

The white gun lobby is highly influential and although the government has tightened some controls, a ban on private firearms appears unlikely.

The neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB — Afrikaner Resistance Movement), vowing to fight President F.W. de Klerk's plan to negotiate power-sharing with black leaders, has appealed for a million whites to arm themselves.

The African National Congress (ANC), which last week agreed with the government to remove obstacles to constitutional negotiations, said at least five innocent people had been killed in recent race attacks and demanded action.

Two white men were due to appear in a Pretoria court on Monday on murder charges. Police say they forced a car containing three blacks off a road and shot dead two.

The wounded survivor said his attackers referred to the Wit Wolves (white wolves), a shadow group to which mass murderer Barend Strydom, who shot dead seven blacks in Pretoria last year, claimed to belong.

Strydom has become a folk hero among many of the uniformed neo-Nazis, who are mainly Afrikaner descendants of South Africa's original Dutch and French settlers.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok ordered police reinforcement into the mining town of Welkom yesterday to head off racial clashes threatened between armed white vigilantes and blacks boycotting white businesses.

Black community leaders say vigilante patrols have murdered two blacks since March.

According to evidence submitted to judicial inquiries by former government agents, police and army agents have carried out attacks, including several murders, of anti-apartheid activists in South Africa over the past 10 years.

Two members of an army unit suspected of murdering South Africa's political opponents took to the stand at an official inquiry yesterday in false beards and wigs to protect their identities.

The two belonged to the shadow Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) which police suspect of being responsible for the murder of at least two prominent anti-apartheid activists in South Africa and Namibia in the past 12 months.

Five elderly blacks were hacked and burned to death in a rural northeastern village after being accused of witchcraft, police said.

The trouble began when a young girl drowned on Wednesday afternoon in a pond at Gama-Makweya, a village near the northeastern town of Pietersburg, said Brig. Phillip Moloo, deputy police commissioner in the black homeland of Lebowa.

A South African spy organisation put cholera bacteria in drinking water to disrupt elections in Namibia, a newspaper reported today.

Vrye Weekblad, a weekly Afrikaans language newspaper, reported that a former official of the Civilian Co-operation Bureau (CCB) said in an interview that the unit had cells in black African nations and Europe and planned sabotage and killings of anti-apartheid activists.

The South African government is conducting an investigation into the CCB and allegations that police and military operatives killed anti-apartheid activists. Several former police officers have claimed they killed activists.

Police said yesterday they found 200 South African businessmen having sex party with prostitutes when they raided a nightclub in the black homeland of Bophuthatsane this week.

Heseltine warns Thatcher

No bid for party leadership

LONDON, May 11. (Reuters): Prominent Conservative Party politician Michael Heseltine, front-runner to succeed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as ruling party leader, denied yesterday he was waging a campaign for the leadership.

Heseltine was responding to questions about an article in the Times newspaper in which he said the government risks losing the next general election unless it makes major reforms to an unpopular new tax.

In a blunt warning to Thatcher, he stated: "There is no time to be lost. There will be no second chance."

The controversial poll tax, introduced in Scotland last year and in England and Wales on April 1, funds local services by a levy on all

adults. Widely regarded as unjust because it levies an equal charge on rich and poor, it has sparked protests around the country and the worst riots in London this century.

Asked in a radio interview if he denied that he was running an undeclared campaign for the Conservative Party leadership, Heseltine said: "Time and time again I have done so. If I have to do it again, and you will have heard me do it many times before, willingly for you I do so."

Heseltine, a former defence secretary who quit Thatcher's cabinet in 1986 in a dispute over Britain's only helicopter maker, said many people believed the poll tax was "too high, unfair, or both."

He said it "left a lingering feeling of injustice" and should be restructured so that those earning more will pay more.

The government is reviewing the way the tax is applied and the amount individuals must pay. But a Thatcher aide said it was firmly committed to the principle of the charge.

He said Thatcher had not read Heseltine's article but had been given a summary of what he said. "He's entitled to his views, it stimulates debate," the aide said.

Heseltine's article made front page news in most national newspapers and reopened debate about Thatcher's leadership, in question in recent months as the Conservatives slumped in opinion polls and suffered a series of ballot setbacks.



De Klerk for Paris

South African President F.W. de Klerk (left) listens to Foreign Minister P.W. Botha in their plane en route to Paris on Wednesday. De Klerk began a private visit to Paris, the

first one by a South African head of state. (Reuters wirephoto)

It's time to reassess

De Klerk urges Europe

ATHENS, May 11. (Agencies): President F.W. de Klerk today became the first South African leader to visit Greece and met Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis on the second leg of an 18-day European tour to explain his political reforms.

De Klerk was greeted at Athens airport by Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras, who took him to the office of President Constantine Karamanlis and on to see Mitsotakis.

The Greek left party said in a statement Mitsotakis was wrong to receive De Klerk and Foreign Minister P.W. Botha since the two men have been linked to the most cruel moments of apartheid.

It urged opponents of apartheid to gather in central Athens in the evening for a rally to oppose De Klerk's visit.

De Klerk said after meeting French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris yesterday that it was time for the European Economic Community (EEC) to reassess its anti-apartheid sanctions. "Sanctions are crumbling," the South African president told a news conference on the first full day of his nine-nation trip.

Mitterrand's spokesman, Hubert Vedrine, confirmed that De Klerk had said sanctions were no longer justified and also announced that Mitterrand would meet with Nelson Mandela on June 7 when

the African National Congress leader visits Paris.

A South African government source said Pretoria hoped to get a sympathetic hearing from the new conservative government of Greece, which last month ended eight years of socialist rule and one year of weak coalitions.

Greece could play a pivotal role if there was a move at next month's EEC summit to review sanctions against Pretoria.

The community is divided over how to react to De Klerk's initiatives, with Britain alone deciding to ease some restrictions against Pretoria.

Greece has backed the EEC majority's demand for clear evidence of irreversible change as a condition for easing sanctions, but South Africa believes it could swing if France or West Germany was to back Britain.

The source said De Klerk wanted personally to explain his plans to reform 40-year-old apartheid laws segregating South Africa's blacks and whites and to bring the nation's voteless black majority into government for the first time in 350 years.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has called off plans to visit South Africa in September, and is now unlikely to go until next year, according to official British sources today.

Reduction in nuke weapons predicted

WASHINGTON, May 11. (AP): Nato nations will have fewer nuclear weapons as a result of an alliance strategy review, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney predicts.

Cheney, speaking with reporters after a two-day Nato meeting in Canada, also left the door open for a unilateral withdrawal of aged nuclear artillery shells from Western Europe.

"It's entirely possible," Cheney said. "It wouldn't be the first time it's been done."

The defence secretary said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation clearly is in the mood to pare its nuclear arsenal in light of the near-elimination of the Warsaw Pact, prospects for Soviet troops withdrawals from Eastern Europe and East-West agreements to slash conventional forces.

Given those developments, "you can also take down nuclear forces," Cheney told reporters aboard his plane returning to Washington.

"We want to go to the lowest level (of nuclear weapons) we can... we don't want any more nuclear weapons than necessary," he said.

The meeting was the first alliance discussion of nuclear issues after President George Bush announced he had dropped plans to upgrade short-range nuclear Lance missiles and was scrapping a move to modernise nuclear artillery.

At the conference, Dutch and West German officials pressed for speedy, unilateral elimination of the 1,600 nuclear-tipped artillery shells. The weapons are designed to be used within a 10- to 20-mile (16- to 32-kilometre) range to halt an overwhelmingly advanced Warsaw Pact troops.

Britain expressed reservations and called for holding onto some short-range, land-based nuclear weapons.

But the United States did not object to the Dutch and German proposal, which was supported by other ministers, leaving it for further study under a lengthy review of Nato nuclear strategy.

Cheney said the comprehensive review of Nato's nuclear force structure wouldn't be anywhere near completed by the time alliance leaders gather for a summit in London July 5-6.

He said the review "is going to take a long time" but believed it "would result in an overall reduction in nuclear weapons."

"We're likely to see fewer nuclear weapons in Europe than in the past," he said.

Cheney appeared upbeat about the results of his third Nato nuclear planning group session, which was held on the snowy Kanawasis ski resort at the foot of the Canadian Rockies.

Alliance defence ministers, at the end of a two-day meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG), said nuclear weapons would remain in Europe and called on the Soviet Union to slash its short-range nuclear arsenal.

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner also told a news conference that the 16-nation alliance would reject a Soviet offer to delay the question of the military status of a united Germany while unification proceeds.

Alliance leaders will meet in London on July 5 and 6 to work out a negotiating position for talks with Moscow on Short-Range Nuclear Forces (SNF), expected to start next year.

Luxembourg announced on Wednesday that its ambassador to Nato Guy de Muiser resigned following US intelligence allegations that he passed information to Moscow.

Baltic leaders to join hands

Secret talks today in Estonia

MOSCOW, May 11. (Reuters): The presidents of the three breakaway Baltic republics will meet tomorrow to co-ordinate tactics for a common fight against Moscow's rule.

The one-day Baltic summit of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian leaders will try to find ways of forging closer economic and political links in the face of Kremlin pressure, politicians and journalists said.

"We're looking for as close co-operation as possible to find a suitable solution for the Baltic states, beneficial to all of us. We do not want to create undue conflict," said Endel Lippmaa, Estonian minister

without portfolio.

"If we don't succeed, it will be a tragedy," said Lippmaa, reached by telephone in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

The meeting, to be held in Tallinn, will be the first between the three presidents since independence-seeking movements won power in elections in the three Baltic republics earlier this year.

Fears

Estonia and Latvia fear that, unless they join in a common stand, they will be subjected to economic sanctions by Moscow like those imposed against Lithuania over its March 11 declaration of independence.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has blasted Estonia's "step-by-step" approach to independence. He has yet to react formally to a similar move by Latvia which on May 4 became the last of the three to declare its sovereignty.

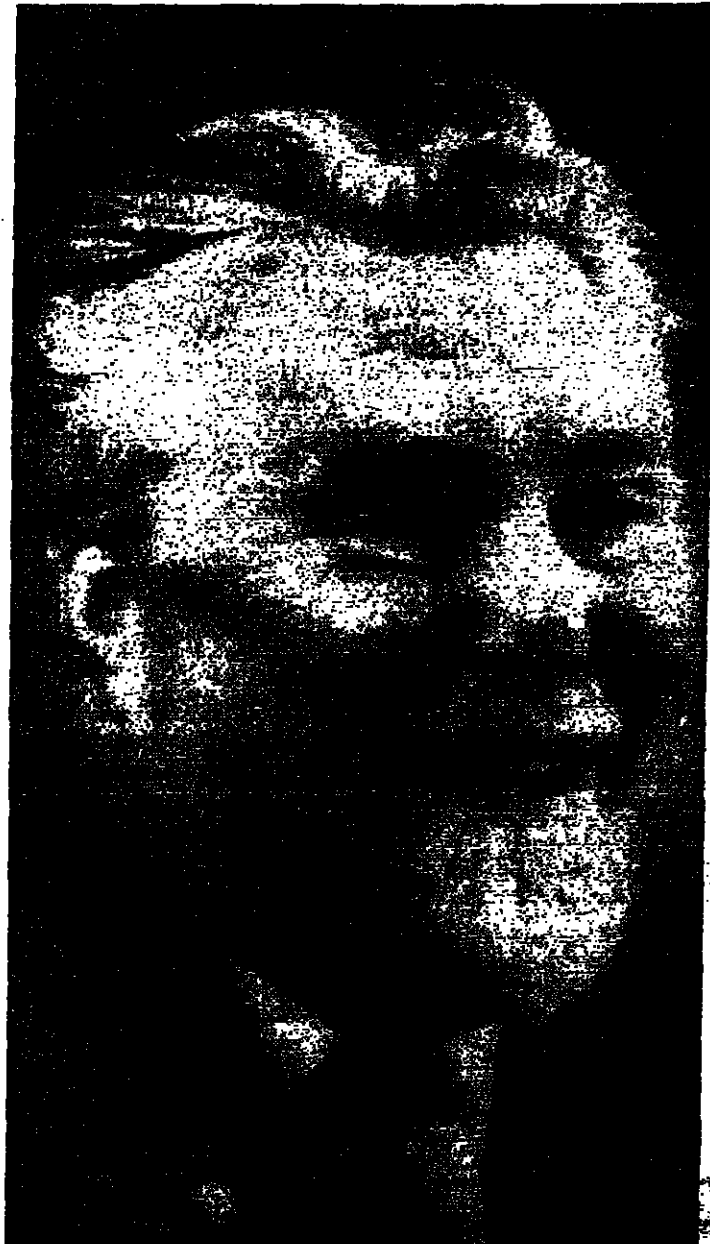
The agenda for the talks is secret. But an Estonian journalist said the three leaders — Lithuania's Vytautas Landsbergis, Latvia's Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Estonia's Arnold Ruutel — would revive the Baltic council, a 1930s consulting body consisting of three senior politicians from each republic.

Lithuania, facing a Kremlin economic blockade which has dried up most of its energy supplies, has begun limited oil production of its own, a local journalist said today.

Lithuania took over formal control of its radio and television yesterday in a new move defying Kremlin insistence it abandon its March 11 declaration of independence.

A spokeswoman for the Lithuanian government in Vilnius said deputies approved statutes making radio and television the responsibility of the republic's parliament.

France urged Moscow yesterday to start formal talks with Lithuania on the future of the rebel Baltic republic.



Motkin grins as he refuses to reveal the identity of the 'fifth man' May 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Fifth man' in UK spy ring

I knew him: ex-spy

MOSCOW, May 11. (Reuters): A former Soviet undercover agent in Britain said yesterday there had been a "fifth man" in the spy ring of British diplomats who worked for the Kremlin from the 1930s until three of them fled to Moscow.

"There was definitely a fifth man. I knew him personally," retired KGB Colonel Yuri Motkin told a news conference.

He made the remarks after a press showing of "A Cambridge Graduate," a film about the life of Harold "Kim" Philby, the main figure in the ring.

British and American intelligence chiefs have for years agonised over whether there was a fifth member of the group, which included Philby, Donald MacLean, Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt.

MacLean and Burgess, also graduates of Cambridge University in the early 1930s, fled to Moscow in 1951 after Philby told them they were about to be arrested.

Philby was retired from the intelligence service under heavy suspicion but he was officially exonerated after years of intermittent interrogation. He finally fled to Moscow in 1963 where he helped train other Soviet agents.

Blunt, who was a senior adviser on art to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II for many years, was publicly revealed to have been part of the ring in 1979. He died in Italy in 1983, just a few weeks before MacLean's death in Moscow.

A recent book by former British intelligence operative Peter Wright said the "fifth man" had been Sir Roger Hollis, head of the M15 counter-espionage service. Hollis died in 1973 and had once interrogated Philby.

But successive British governments have insisted there was no evidence that Hollis was part of the ring which Motkin said provided "invaluable information" to Moscow for two decades.

The plump former spy — who told foreign reporters he had been one of Philby's controllers in Britain — refused to identify the fifth man.

Philby told Soviet authorities about Rudolf Hess's secret mission to Britain three days after it happened, according to the official news agency Tass.

The May 1941 flight came one month before Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union, and prosecutors at the Nuremberg war crimes trial said the Germans, through Hess, were seeking peace with Britain so they could concentrate their efforts against the Soviets.

"It would have been possible to save hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of human lives, if Stalin had trusted Soviet intelligence officers' reports about Nazi Germany's preparations for an attack on the Soviet Union," the agency said today.

Tass included Philby, the British intelligence officer who spied for the Soviets for 30 years, among the Soviet agents.

Workers protest in Berlin

EAST BERLIN, May 11. (AP): Former communists are inciting unrest among East German workers, who fear they will lose their jobs as the nation unites with West Germany, a West German official charged today. "Tens of thousands of teachers, clerical workers and farmers staged brief protests and strikes yesterday to demand protection from the widespread unemployment expected as East Germany moves to a free market."

Hans Klein, spokesman for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said the organisers of the strikes "are to some extent exactly the forces who caused" East Germany's dire economic problems.

Klein told a news conference in the West German capital of Bonn that the strikes were "unprecedented" and "fear" over the talks between the Germans on the merger of their economies and social institutions.

Guenter Krause, leader of the East German delegation to the economic talks, criticised what he called a "fear campaign" by the left for provoking anxiety over the loss of huge subsidies under the old socialist rule.

Krause made his comments to the East German Parliament while briefing lawmakers yesterday on the status of the unification talks.

Lawmaker Gregor Gysi, head of the reformed Communist Party, blamed the East German government for the uncertainty among East Germans.

He said East Germans were being kept uninformed about what was being negotiated and that they needed information to plan for economic changes.

He told lawmakers that the East German negotiators have gone into talks in a "stooped posture" with the West, wants to remove all vestiges of the former socialist economic system.

The Germans are to merge their economies and social institutions on July 2, when the West German mark is to become the currency for both countries.

Full unification is expected next year, after the superpower settle a dispute over a united Germany's military allegiance.

Krause said work on the final agreement on the economic and social union should be completed by September. The Parliaments of both nations then would consider the treaty, which is being negotiated by experts behind closed doors and still leaves many questions unanswered.

Mandela warns De Klerk ANC wants action, not words on reform, before considering truce

LUANDA, Angola, May 11. (AP): One week after the apparent success of initial peace talks between the African National Congress and the South African government, veteran ANC leader Nelson Mandela warned President F.W. de Klerk he wanted action before considering a truce.

In a speech at a dinner given in Mandela's honour yesterday by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and released today, the ANC vice president said he "in no way doubted the sincerity" of the government and believed De Klerk was "serious and sincere" in searching for a peaceful transition to majority rule.

But, he added, "I must warn President De Klerk that it is not just a question of accepting a man's honesty, a man's seriousness in searching for a solution. There are some things we ourselves as well as the government must do to show the world that what we say, we mean to do."

"If the government drags its feet, then there is no question of our even considering a ceasefire... the time has come to deliver the goods," said Mandela. He reiterated demands made at last week's meeting with De Klerk that in order to proceed to formal power-sharing talks, the government must allow exiles to return to South Africa under a general

amnesty, release all political prisoners, including those facing the death penalty, and lift the current state of emergency.

The government has said the ANC must disavow the use of violence before formal talks can be held. Mandela, who De Klerk freed from jail February 11 after 27 years in of a life sentence, also stressed that an end to white-minority rule should not lead to an exodus of white skilled workers or capital.

"We don't want to lose an important sector that has acquired expertise... so we are determined to address the fears of the whites," he added.

Mandela arrived yesterday from Lusaka, Zambia, on his first trip to Angola — traditionally the ANC's most prominent supporter in the region. Accords signed in 1988 by Angola, Cuba and South Africa force the closure of at least seven major ANC training camps in Angola.

The accords also called for South Africa to cease aid to anti-government rebels in Angola and grant independence to Namibia, Angola's southern neighbour. Under the accords Cuba agreed to withdraw some 50,000 troops backing Angolan forces against the rebels.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

Denies working with Arabs to curtail influx

US raps Israel over settlements

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP): The administration of President George Bush again criticised Israel for settling Jewish in occupied West Bank and in Gaza but said it was not working with Arab governments at the United Nations to curtail immigration.

"We want to see immigration take place and will oppose efforts by anyone to block it," Margaret D. Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, said yesterday.

However, the administration, which is hotly opposed to the settlements, did not promise to veto any resolution in the UN Security Council aimed at Israel.

And an Israeli source, insisting on anonymity, said a resolution being drafted would condemn settlement of Jewish in occupied Jerusalem while affirming a right of expatriate

Arabs to return to Israel.

"We are very disturbed," the source told the Associated Press.

Moshe Arad, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, registered the concern privately with Robert Kimmitt, the under secretary for political affairs, on Tuesday at the State Department.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens then went public, saying in occupied Jerusalem yesterday that he was troubled the United States was working with Arab governments on a resolution.

For the time being, at least, the dispute has been sidetracked. The Security Council has postponed indefinitely its consideration of the resolution.

And the White House and State Department

decided to soft-pedal the settlements issue, which has flared for several months.

"We're a member of the Security Council, so quite obviously we would be a part of the deliberations and the discussions. But we have not taken a position on that resolution or any specific resolution," said Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman.

"Israel is our close friend, our strongly ally. Our bilateral relationship is very strong. As with any strong friendship there are differences of opinion or certain issues," Tutwiler said.

The Bush administration insists that settling Jews on the occupied West Bank and in Gaza presents an obstacle to a negotiated settlement in the Middle East.

Only a small percentage of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union wind up in

the territories surrendered by Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 six-day war.

The Bush administration considers those settlements an obstacle to Mideast negotiations since the Arabs hope to recover the lands from Israel.

Additionally, President Bush objects to Soviet Jews living in occupied east Jerusalem, which Israel won in 1967 and made part of its capital city.

Without referring directly to occupied Jerusalem, or to its inclusion in the prospective resolution, spokeswoman Tutwiler said "the government of Israel is well aware of our concern that Soviet Jews not be encouraged to move into the territories."

Therefore, she said, "We find the foreign minister's comments a little confusing."

Riots in W. Bank

3 killed, settlers go on rampage in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 11, (Agencies): Riots broke out in the occupied West Bank today after a military truck knocked down and killed a five-year-old girl and two other Palestinians died in incidents that sparked anti-Israeli fury.

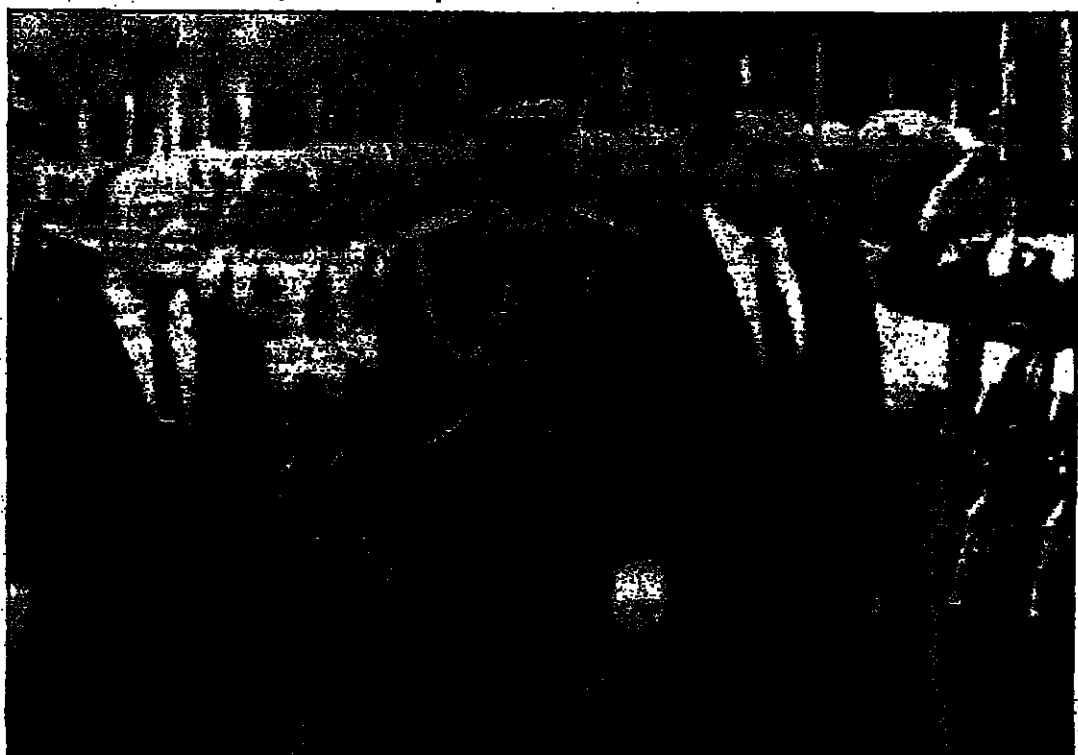
The Israeli army said the death of the infant Wafa Ajaji in Taibe village near Ramallah was accidental but Palestinians said it sparked stone-throwing protests in the area.

In other incidents reflecting the tensions of the 29-month-old upris-

ing, protests broke out after a suspected collaborator shot dead a fellow-Arab and a Palestinian received a martyr's funeral after his death in a car crash was blamed on Israeli settlers.

The suspected collaborator used an Israeli-issued gun to kill Mohammed Abu Samra, 18, in Yatta, near Hebron, local residents said. The army said it was checking the report.

Israeli army informers to protect them against attacks by Palestinian militants, who have killed more than 200 accused collaborators during the uprising.



In Beit Ummar, north of Hebron, 30-year-old Mahmoud Zaidan Abu Ayyash was killed last night when his car overturned after a rock shattered the windshield.

Palestinians said he was stoned by Jewish settlers. Police confirmed a stone was found inside the wrecked car but the army denied settlers were involved.

An Israeli border policeman, Eliahu Hagan, 31, was also killed near Ramallah today in a collision with a car driven by a Palestinian, Israeli Radio reported.

In the Gaza Strip, at least five Palestinians were shot and wounded in the Khan Yunis area in protests sparked by the killing of a youth by troops in Beit Hanoun yesterday.

Israeli soldiers meanwhile forced shops in Bethlehem to close for a sixth straight day in what the army called a response to Palestinian stone-throwing.

Residents said soldiers drove through the half-Christian half-Muslim town, the birthplace of Jesus, threatening to fine shopkeepers who refused to shut.

An army spokesman said soldiers had closed down the business district since the beginning of the week because of an increase in stone-throwing.

Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man and wounded 20 others in violent clashes in a Gaza Strip village yesterday, as Jewish settlers went on rampage in the West Bank town of Hebron, firing at Arab houses and smashing cars.

"They smashed the windows of five cars and fired for two hours. Come and see how many bullets they shot at my house. My wife and son were beaten," Issa Baradai, a Hebron resident, said in a telephone interview.

About 30 Jewish settlers from nearby Kiryat Arba took part in the vigilante raid, during which they used clubs and stones to smash Arab-owned vehicles and hurled rocks at passers-by, slightly injuring two Palestinians, Arab reports said.

According to Arab accounts, the settler attack was provoked by an earlier stone-throwing incident.

Hebron, home to 70,000 Arabs, has seen numerous clashes between Palestinians and some 200 settlers living in the town, as well as those in Kiryat Arba.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who brought Jewish settlers to Hebron just after Israel captured the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war, was sentenced on May 1 to five months in prison for killing a Hebron merchant during a 1988 stone-throwing clash.

Also in Hebron, relatives buried the body of 14-year-old Ziyad Al Gageby, who died yesterday of a head wound suffered in a clash with Israeli soldiers a day before, Arab reports said.

The army command said it was checking the report.

Witness tells of Israeli brutality

TEL AVIV, May 11, (AP): Maj Gen Amram Mitzna, former military commander of the West Bank, said yesterday that an officer's orders to break the limbs of Palestinian detainees not just violated army rules but were "black and white."

"Sometimes there is a grey area especially as to when to stop the beatings," Mitzna told a special army court, testifying in the trial of Col Yehuda Meir. "But this order has a black flag flying over it."

Mitzna, Meir's former commanding officer, stood in full uniform before three military judges, all colonels, also in army dress.

He was a prosecuting witness against Meir, who is charged on eight counts, including causing bodily harm with malicious intent.

On Meir's orders, a paratroop battalion arrested Palestinians in two West Bank villages in January 1988, took them into surrounding fields and beat the bound and gagged detainees with rifles and clubs.

At least 12 Palestinians were reported to have had their limbs broken in the two incidents.

"We were talking about giving soldiers permission to use force to break up demonstrations," Mitzna said. "But here, they took people from their houses into the field and used force."

Israeli military authorities introduced beatings as a deterrent to demonstrators a month after the start of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

"Violence was escalating and frustrated soldiers resorted to the use of gunfire complained to their commanders."

Firing on the crowds was ruled out as "only pouring oil on the fire," and beatings were introduced as means to disperse protests and control detainees, Mitzna said.

Mitzna stressed, however, that the soldiers were repeatedly told that once the arrest had been carried out or the demonstration dispersed, the beatings were to stop.

"In no way were beatings to be used as punishment. They are to deter additional participation in demonstrations, but no beatings beyond what is needed," Mitzna said.

The courtroom, filled with over 50 civilian and army spectators, listened to Mitzna's two-hour testimony attentively while Meir leaned back in his chair and passed notes to his wife.

Meir, wearing dark sunglasses, a blue T-shirt, khaki pants and sneakers, ignored the photographers and cameramen who surrounded him and his wife before the testimony began.

A previous testimony by the battalion commander Lt Omri Kochba, said Meir told the soldiers that there were new orders not to arrest Palestinians but to break their arms and legs and leave them in the field.

Kochba described the gagged whippers as feet, legs and arms were cracked and said the battalion was humiliated.

Mitzna said that he had discussed the use of force in several briefings with Meir, then army commander of Nabulus area, who had continually contested the limits set.

Saddam glows in Arab eyes

Morale booster

CAIRO, May 11, (Reuters): Unaccustomed though he may be to outside acclaim, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is basking in an unprecedented glow of Arab admiration.

The decision by Egypt and Saudi Arabia to throw their weight behind plans for an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad crowns a series of electrifying statements — quickly followed by Western howls of protest — that have held the Middle East spellbound.

Undaunted by Western censure, Hussein has threatened to "burn" half of Israel if attacked, boasted of Iraq's possession of modern chemical arms as well as devices known as capacitors which Washington says could trigger nuclear warheads.

His military industries have built long-range missiles, but Baghdad has scoffed at British suspicion that sections of steel pipe bound for Iraq were part of a massive "doomsday gun."

Because of the Iraqi leader's reputation for ruthlessness, his country's massive arms programme is widely seen in the West as a threat.

But for many Arabs his defiance of Western criticism and his brandishing of big weapons has come as a morale booster at a time when nothing seems to be going right for the Arab world.

His main antagonist in the region remains Syria, which has alone stood against what it sees as his dangerous expansionist dreams. The two countries have been ruled by rival wings of the pan-Arab Nationalist Baath Party for over 20 years.

Seventeen of the Arab League's 22 members have agreed to attend the proposed summit, but Syria's President Hafez Al Assad adamantly refuses to attend a meeting in Baghdad. Diplomats say a summit without Syria could prove a hollow victory for Arabs trying to find an elusive solidarity.

Hussein, known in the Arab world as Saddam, says Arabs have every right to defend themselves as best they can, even if it means breaking rules to match Israel's arsenal of Western state-of-the-art weapons.

The 53-year-old strongman rallied much of the Arab world around him when his country and revolutionary Iran fought each other to a bloody standstill in their eight-year Gulf conflict.

The West, not unhappy to see Iran's Islamic Republic cut to size, gave implicit support to Iraq during the war and some nations, like France, openly supplied Hussein with weapons.

When the guns fell silent in August 1988, he lost no time in seeking to become the region's pre-eminent champion of Arab rights, projecting the ceasefire as a victory for Iraq.

With a hundred well-drilled, combat-tested divisions at his back, Hussein casts himself in the role of a latter-day Salah Al-Din, the legendary warrior known in the West as Saladin who vanquished crusader armies in the name of Islam in the 12th century.

Both men were born in Tikrit, north of Baghdad. But unlike Salah Al-Din, the son of a general, Hussein was born into a peasant family and began his political career as a teenage activist agitating against a pro-British monarchy.

Hussein's portraits stand tall in Baghdad streets and his 11-year rule has brought unparalleled stability in a land where Sunni Muslim Arabs like him are a minority.

He gained a new Arab platform when Iraq last year joined Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen in forming the Arab Co-operation Council, an economic and political alliance.

Changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe seem to underline Hussein's cherished philosophy of gradually giving way to a multipolar world in which regional players like Iraq can exert greater influence on the international stage.

Most Arab states rallied again this year to Iraq's defence in its latest row with the West and although few claim a close personal rapport with Hussein, many are genuinely outraged by Western criticism of his policies.



Fathi Arafat, the brother of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, addresses the 43rd annual World Health Assembly in Geneva, on Thursday. The Palestinians who hold observer status at the organisation, failed for the second year running to gain admission as full members. (Reuters wirephoto)

PLO fails Entry into WHO

GENEVA, May 11, (Reuters): The PLO, seeking international recognition for its self-proclaimed state of Palestine, has also been trying to join the Paris-based United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome.

The resolution, co-sponsored by 28 countries from Europe, the Arab world and Africa, was adopted by consensus. Israel was the only dissenter. Its delegate said he wanted to dissociate his country from the draft text because it dealt with issues unrelated to health problems.

US Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisation Affairs John Bolton told delegates after the resolution was adopted: "It signifies that member governments of the World Health Organisation do not want...to get further embroiled in extraneous political issues."

He reaffirmed US belief that the PLO did not qualify for full membership because it did not control a territory with legally recognised borders.

But Fathi Arafat, who headed the PLO's delegation at the meeting, said the group would persevere.

"Our right to request membership is a permanent one and we will reiterate it," he said, the head of the Palestinian Red Crescent and the brother of PLO leader Yasser Arafat said.

ing to be negotiating for the release of hostages, because lawyers have been dealing with these cases for years," said one diplomatic analyst.

Sofaer is leaving his post in Mid-June and President George Bush's administration could distance itself from any deals he concludes should American public opinion view a settlement of B-1 as violating US policy, the analyst said.

Washington's stand, repeated since the release last month of Robert Pollitt and Frank Reed, is that it will not negotiate with Iran over hostages.

Both Iran and the United States denied the small claims deal, announced after almost a year of talks between Sofaer and Eftekar-Jaromi, had any link with the release of Reed and Pollitt.



No freedom

Hussein Musawi, top leader of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah told Reuters and wirephotos on Thursday that 15 Western hostages would not be freed without a price in return and held Washington responsible for their continued detention. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iran, EEC to hold talks on hostages

BRUSSELS, May 11, (Agencies): An Iranian delegation will meet in Dublin next week with European Economic Community representatives to discuss Middle East hostages and other issues, officials said yesterday.

The meeting next Wednesday at Dublin castle, billed as a chance to improve relations strained by the Salman Rushdie affair, will take place during a meeting of political directors of the 12 EEC nations.

The Iranian delegation will meet a "troika" comprised of political directors from France, Ireland and Italy — the past, present and future holders of the rotating EEC presidency.

The meeting was requested by the Iranians and the overture was accepted by Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins, said a spokesman for the Irish EEC presidency.

"Hostages from the EEC countries would certainly be on the agenda," the spokesman said.

Westerners abducted and believed held hostage in the Middle East — in addition to Americans — include residents of Britain, Belgium, Ireland and Italy, all EEC members.

The recent release of Americans Robert Pollitt and Frank Reed has increased pressure on European governments to win release of their captives. The Belgian government has been negotiating feverishly, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said this week that direct talks with Iran could not be ruled out.

The British hostages include Terry Waite, envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was abducted in January 1987 while negotiating the release of Western captives.

"Nothing should be read into the fact that next week's meeting is with the EEC political directors and not the foreign ministers," said the Irish spokesman. "The meeting with the Iranians will be held on the fringes of the political directors' meetings, which will start next Tuesday and Wednesday in Dublin."

He pointed out that Ireland's foreign minister met bilaterally last month with his Iranian counterpart at the United Nations in New York.

Diplomatic relations between Iran and Britain were severed after the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini said British author Salman Rushdie should be killed for writing "The Satanic Verses," a novel. Relations between Iran and other EEC countries were also strained by the incident.

The meeting will discuss EEC-Iran affairs," the Irish spokesman said. "After the Salman Rushdie affair, the heads of delegations were withdrawn from Iran for about a month from each EEC country. There does seem to be a development in Iranian affairs toward opening relations with the West."

The political directors of the three EEC countries, all senior foreign ministry officials, are Padraig Murphy of Ireland, Bertrand Dulongue of France and Enzo Perini of Italy.

UK's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said yesterday that direct talks with Iran to secure the release of British hostages were possible if they were likely to produce results.

"I do not rule out the possibility of direct talks if we felt that they were likely to produce results. But the restoration of diplomatic relations... is certainly not a matter for us alone," Hurd said during question time in the House of Commons.

"We shall do everything we can to bring about the release of all the hostages — short of making concessions or striking bargains with those who hold them — because we want a safer world not a more dangerous one," he said.

Hurd acknowledged the role played by Syria in Reed's release but added: "We broke with Syria in 1986 on the issue of state-supported terrorism — an issue that remains unresolved."

"We have had indirect talks with them since then on behalf of the hostages."

Iranian Charge D'Affaires Mohammad Jawad Zamanian yesterday called for the release of "our hostages and all the hostages."

The recently appointed Zamanian, who has been visiting Lebanese leaders to introduce himself, made the remark after meeting in Sidon with various leaders and politicians.

"As you know we also were the victims of abduction. We know that the four (missing) Iranian diplomats are alive in (Christian) east Beirut," Zamanian told reporters.

A senior Hezbollah official said yesterday the remaining 15 Western hostages in Lebanon would be freed only if Britain and the United States paid the price.

Islamic tide wins campus

AMMAN, May 11, (AP): Islamic fundamentalist students stunned independents and Marxists in Jordan's first student union elections, capturing 82 seats in the 83-man Jordan University preparatory committee, according to results reported yesterday.

Muslim Brotherhood students rolled up huge totals in the voting on Wednesday at Jordan University. Independents won two seats and the leftists just one in the low turnout.

The Jordan University vote was the latest victory for the Muslim Brotherhood Party, whose members captured almost two dozen seats in the national, 80-seat chamber of deputies last November.

"Students affiliated with the Islamic tide have won a major victory in the Jordan university student elections capturing 96.4 per cent of the seats," the dean of student affairs, Youssef M. Siyam, told the Associated Press in an interview.

Siyam noted that of the 16,843 registered voters, only 58 per cent, or 9,763 students participated in the ballot.

He said Leith Al Tal of the college of engineering got the highest number of 937 votes while science college students Ahmad Zuhair, with 932 votes came second and Abdul Rahim Al-Jundi, third with 946.

The university said 271 candidates competed for the 85 seats and said 14 women won seats.

Siyam said independent winners secured two seats in the school of law, which was allocated five seats, while a leftist-affiliated winner captured one of the 14 seats allocated for the college of arts.

Labour Party split deepens

Rabin asks Peres to quit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 11, (Reuters): Former Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin called on Labour Party leader Shimon Peres to resign today, deepening the split at the top of the party.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was meanwhile said by members of his Likud Party to be close to forming a right-wing government with the support of small far-right and religious parties.

Rabin, who is challenging Peres for the Labour leadership, blamed him for failing to form a left-wing government dedicated to peace talks with the Palestinians after pulling the party out of a national unity cabinet with Likud in March.

"I believe that whoever is in the lead in any system... should take responsibility whenever it fails," Rabin, 68, told Israel's radio English-language service.

"I still hope the one who was in the lead will take responsibility and will draw conclusions."

A senior Shamir aide said the strife in Labour made the formation of another national unity government impossible.

"Even if Mr Shamir wanted to form a broad government, in the current state of Labour there is no partner for such a government," he said.

Without the four-member Agudat Israel faction, Shamir would have at most a wafer-thin 61-59 majority in the 120-seat Knesset (parliament), making his government highly unstable.

Aides said a 65-seat government including Agudat Israel would make Shamir less vulnerable to pressure from rightist parties and from the right wing of Likud, led by Ariel Sharon, who has demanded the Defence Ministry.

Iran, US accord on small claims opens way for larger deal, future ties

THE HAGUE, May 10, (Reuters): Tentative agreement on some 3,100 small financial claims between the United States and Iran allows them to tackle a much more important case with far-reaching implications for their future relations.

Tehran and Washington said they had reached a tentative accord under which Iran would pay \$105 million for thousands of claims of under \$250,000 by Americans and the United States would pay \$400,000 for 108 Iranian claims.

The agreement cleared away a host of nagging cases from the Iran-US claims tribunal and enabled US and Iranian officials to turn to the case known as B-1 in which Iran claims \$11 billion over US military contracts broken after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

A tribunal official said US State Department legal

adviser Abraham Sofaer would meet his Iranian counterpart, Goudarz Eftekar-Jaromi, in the Hague this month over an out-of-tribunal settlement of B-1, which involves 2,500 contracts for US military services and hardware.

The US never completed deliveries of much of the equipment ordered by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before he was ousted but it says the contracts were worth millions, not billions, of dollars.

As with the lump sum agreement on small claims, a negotiated settlement on B-1 would save both countries years of litigation and provide Tehran with cash to rebuild an economy shattered by its eight-year war with Iraq.

Iran has been pressing for years for a quick settlement of B-1 without drawing much enthusiasm

from Washington.

But with the United States seeking to show Tehran goodwill for easing the release of two American hostages in Lebanon last month, and hoping Iran will help to free six more, the tribunal has turned into a useful arena to signal improved ties.

Set up under a 1981 treaty which freed 52 US hostages in Iran to settle financial disputes arising from the Iranian revolution, it is the only forum where the two countries hold official bilateral contact.

About \$2.2 billion has so far changed hands in the tribunal and B-1 is the largest claim before it.

The tribunal is the only arena where the United States can justifiably show goodwill without seem-

KD8,619,000 paid out in workers' compensation

1989 labour department study

COMPENSATION to workers due to work related injuries in 1989 amounted to KD8,619,000, according to a study prepared by the labour department of Hawalli and Farwaniya Governorates.

Direct costs borne by insurance companies and costs of medical treatment of these accidents were KD 1,723,806 while indirect costs that included casualties and material losses in equipment, loss of

raw materials and suspension of work amounted to KD 6,895,000. These figures reduced by KD1,272,000 compared to costs of injuries of labour accidents reported in 1988.

The study showed that injuries of labour accidents reduced from 3,756 injuries in 1988 to 3,473 injuries last year. The insurance companies compensated labourers for 190 death cases; 711 cases of

total disability and 2,743 cases of partial disability last year beside medical treatment at hospitals that were borne by the state which averaged 25 per cent of total compensations paid by the insurance companies.

The study pointed out that more than 44,000 new labourers were added to the workforce last year increasing the total work force to 469,863 in the private sector.

The study additionally indicated that most accidents and injuries reported last year occurred at the construction sector and sector of non-oil industrial sector.

Falling of heavy objects on labourers caused six death cases and 1,054 non-fatal injuries and machines caused three deaths and 654 non-fatal injuries. Falling from high places caused 5 deaths and 537 non-fatal injuries, the study said.

Haj caravans to leave June 12-15

THE acting undersecretary of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Ali Al Zuma headed an expanded meeting at the ministry for owners of pilgrimage caravans for the coming season. Zuma determined the official dates for departure of caravans which will start from June 12 to June 15 for caravans that will leave for Al Madina and then travel to Makkah. The caravans that will leave to Makkah directly will begin from June 20 to June 23. He said that 66 caravans have been licensed this year of which 43 will go to Al Madina then to Makkah and 23 to Makkah directly. The ministry is working its best to offer facilities for pilgrims at Kuwait borders and to reduce waiting time. The Interior Ministry and Saudi Embassy were notified about the schedule of departure of the Kuwaiti caravans. He stressed on the necessity for owners of caravans to abide by conditions of the pilgrimage affairs committee concerning the model of buses used to carry pilgrims which should be models manufactured after 1980.



Envoys received

Governor of Jahra Ali Al Abdulla Al Sabah received at his office on Thursday the Ambassador of India, A.K. Budhiraja, and of the UK Michael Weston. Friendly talks were held.

Gulf states vow to combat sea pollution

KUWAIT, May 11. (Opecna): Marine pollution experts and representatives of the eight Gulf littoral states ended a three-day meeting here yesterday which was held to evaluate the progress of work on clearing Gulf waters of war-related and other wreckage.

The fourth session of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) focussed on offers made by several international companies and ecologists on the best means of clearing Gulf waters of submerged objects and pollutants.

Ropme consists of the six Opec member states of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the

United Arab Emirates, along with non-Opec Bahrain and Oman.

Dr Badriya Al Awadi of Kuwait, Ropme's technical and administrative affairs co-ordinator, said the meeting would update information and data on the location of sunken objects and probe efforts made since the last session to lift them.

She said to fight the hazards facing marine environment in the Gulf, a regional and collective approach was needed. She noted that there was a political desire among Ropme member states to join hands to ensure the success of plans to clear the Gulf waters of both pollution and wreckage.

Locust combat begins in Oman

MUSCAT, May 11. (AP): The air force went into action on Wednesday in support of desert locust combat operations in northern Oman, where the season's first sightings of the crop-threatening insect were reported from the Arabian peninsula.

Aerial spraying by the Sultanate's air force on the Batinah Coast and eastern Sharqiya region would bring the situation under control, agricultural department director Ahmed Al Hinaï said.

He said alfalfa was the main crop under attack and agricultural department fieldworkers were fighting from the ground to contain the growing threat to farm crops.

Coastal and rural surveillance teams in the Wadi Abath area of the Batinah and the Wadi Mur and Wadi Sal areas of Sharqiya's Bani Bu Ali region had confirmed sightings of locally bred desert hoppers, he said.

A hopper is the term for an immature wingless locust that feeds voraciously on fresh vegetation as it grows to adulthood.

Strategy

Hinaï said the agriculture department's crop protection unit had developed a locust control strategy and encouraged farmers to be increasingly vigilant to safeguard their crop yields.

The unit provided subsidised insecticide and spraying equipment through the year, and free supplies and logistic support when there was a plague threat.

A plague occurs when there are many bands of hoppers and swarms of adult locusts over a large expanse of ground.

Health warnings to desert tribesmen who eat locusts as a local delicacy had been largely successful, said Hinaï.

"It is not a major problem any more. We were concerned they were eating locusts that had been sprayed with insecticide but now it appears they try to kill them if possible," he said.

Locusts are an annual menace to farming in Oman as well as the rest of the countries on the peninsula. They are attracted to the arid environment where average yearly rainfall is low and sporadic, and usually limited to the spring season.

The locusts breed after the heavy spring rains and can mature in two to four weeks. Outbreaks generally occur on the borders of highland areas where run-off provides favourable breeding sites.

Kuwait not mediating Kashmir issue: envoy

Amir's messages to Singh, Bhutto

NEW DELHI, May 11. (Kuna): Mohammed Sayed Ali Al Rifai, special envoy of HH the Amir of Kuwait yesterday stated that his country is not mediating between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

Rifai, who is the advisor at Amiri Diwan, told Kuna "I have not been mandated by the Amir of Kuwait to mediate on this issue."

He arrived here late Wednesday night from Islamabad carrying a special message from the Amir of Kuwait to Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

He said that India and Pakistan should solve their problems through dialogue and negotiation regardless of how complicated the issues are.

The advisor of the Amir had already had detailed discussions with the Pakistani leaders on the Kashmir issue and they apprised him of Islamabad's position on the problem. The Kashmir issue has resulted in straining ties between two neighbouring nations.

He said the letter touches upon many bilateral matters and certain important issues of the South Asian region.

Rifai's visit assumes significance in view of the Islamic Countries Foreign Minister's Conference in Cairo in June

where Pakistan is making a determined bid to raise the Kashmir issue.

Agenda

The envoy said that he has no knowledge that the Kashmir issue has been included in the foreign minister's conference agenda. The agenda has been prepared and there are many applications to include some issues in it.

India is making a determined bid to ensure that the Kashmir issue is not included in the agenda and has deputed several top functionaries to some Muslim countries to seek their support in this regard.

Indian Energy Minister Arif Mohammed Khan visited Kuwait while Najma Heptulla visited Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia in this regard.

Rifai stated that Kuwait wishes that India and Pakistan would exercise restraint and settle their matters peacefully.

On Indo-Kuwait ties, he said the relations are excellent. "The two countries have identical views on many international issues," he described Deputy Chairman Najma Heptulla's visit to Kuwait recently as excellent, "our relations are historical and durable."

He was received at the airport on his arrival by Minister of State for External Affairs Hari Kishore, Najma Heptulla and Kuwait Ambassador to India Ahmed Zakaria.

Meanwhile in Islamabad Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto received a message from HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad on issues of mutual concern.

The message was conveyed by special envoy Sulaiman Muhammad Ali in a meeting with Bhutto early Wednesday.

An official press statement said Ali and Benazir discussed the regional situation particularly events in Kashmir and growing tension between India and Pakistan. Benazir explained the stand of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and its commitment to give moral and political support to Kashmiris. She emphasised that it was imperative for the Muslim and other friendly countries to caution restraint on India which had assumed a threatening posture against Pakistan.

Prime Minister's National Security Advisor Iqbal Akhund and Kuwaiti Ambassador here Qasim Al Yaqub were among those present at the occasion.

As common as a jacket

Rifles, daggers mark of manhood in Yemen

NORTH YEMEN, May 11. (Reuters): In the rugged highlands of North Yemen, a Kalashnikov automatic rifle is as much part of a man's attire as the curved dagger he wears in his belt.

Visitors to this Arabian peninsula country, on the verge of uniting with socialist South Yemen, are often startled by the abundance of weapons in a society which has only recently shaken off feudal values.

In towns and villages across the country, no self-respecting Yemeni over the age of 14 would dream of being caught on the street without his jambiya (Yemeni dagger) attached to an embroidered belt.

"We don't use them for fighting — it's very important for every person to carry one because it shows he is a Yemeni," Mohammed, a 23-year-old tailor from the capital Sanaa, explained.

In areas north of Sanaa, automatic rifles and old-fashioned muskets are just as common attire for the mountain men. Hotels frequented by nervous tourists often display placards reading: Absolutely no weapons allowed.

It's natural for me to wear it, just as it is for you to wear your jacket," said Shadaad, a tribesman from Saada, in the north of the country.

Shadaad says he only fires his gun at weddings, Eid (Muslim festivals) and other special occasions.

Disputes

The crack of gunshot often echoes across rooftops on these occasions as Yemenis shoot into the air to celebrate.

Tribesmen working in Sanaa still flock home to their mountain villages to join an exuberant dance called "bara" (brialliance) performed with guns and daggers at traditional Eid celebrations.

Despite all the weapons, crime in this conservative Muslim society is rare.

But disputes between the northern tribesmen, who consider themselves independent from the central government, are still common

over such vital issues as water and trading rights.

They also sometimes clash with government troops trying to clamp down on smuggling across the border with Saudi Arabia.

A common way of getting the government's attention on a particular issue is for tribesmen to hijack vehicles belonging to tourist companies or oil company executives, diplomats say.

Industry sources say some firms lose one vehicle every week.

But the cars are usually returned, after a period of negotiations with the authorities.

"Hijacking a car is a way of getting attention — it means they want to get something from the government, like a school, a medical clinic or a new water system," one diplomat said.

The government has been urging Yemenis to lay down their weapons and some have done so. But one of the country's top tribal chiefs — Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar — said last month tribesmen should retain the traditional right to carry weapons after the country unites with South Yemen.

"There is no contradiction between tribalism and the state," said Ahmar, who is chief of the Hashid tribe confederation. Diplomats say Ahmar has a private army of at least 25,000.

The weapons enter the country through porous borders, sometimes shipped through the Arabian Sea port of Aden in South Yemen, sometimes through North Yemen's Red Sea port of Hodeidah and even by land across Saudi Arabia, diplomats say.

Suq Al Fah — once a renowned arms market a few km (miles) north of Saada — has all but disappeared in the past few years after moves by the government to close it down.

But visitors can still buy Soviet- or Chinese-made Kalashnikovs or pistols, US-made M-16s, along with a wide array of silver jewellery and daggers from vendors crunched in metal shacks at a corner of the market.

Diplomats say other arms markets have since sprung up, notably in Jihana 30 km (19 miles) east of Sanaa.

157 bank personnel complete English course

KUWAIT, May 11. (Kuna): Under the auspices of Dr Abdullah Mohanna Ghanem, Director of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS), a batch of 157 bank personnel who completed their English language courses will receive their certificates on Monday.

The courses completed successfully include English communication programme, Toefl preparation programme, English-Arabic for secretarial staff intermediate programme, English report writing programme, English presentation skills programme, Improving aural oral programme, and the Kuwait Finance House English language programme.

These programmes, offered by the English Language Unit (ELU) of IBS, meet the language needs of local bank personnel and aim to develop their language proficiency, a press release by the IBS said here today.

Owing to the increasing internationalisation of financial markets, the release said, new courses of English for bank employees are continually designed and developed in order to provide quality English instruction relevant and useful in fulfilling trainees' employment obligations.

At the IBS, it is recognised that teaching English for banking purposes is an ever-changing field. The ELU of the IBS strives to provide its trainees with the most up-to-date instruction to further the banking industry in Kuwait.

The total number of participants trained by the English Language Unit, so far, amounts to 2,819 trainees from several Kuwaiti banks and financial institutions.

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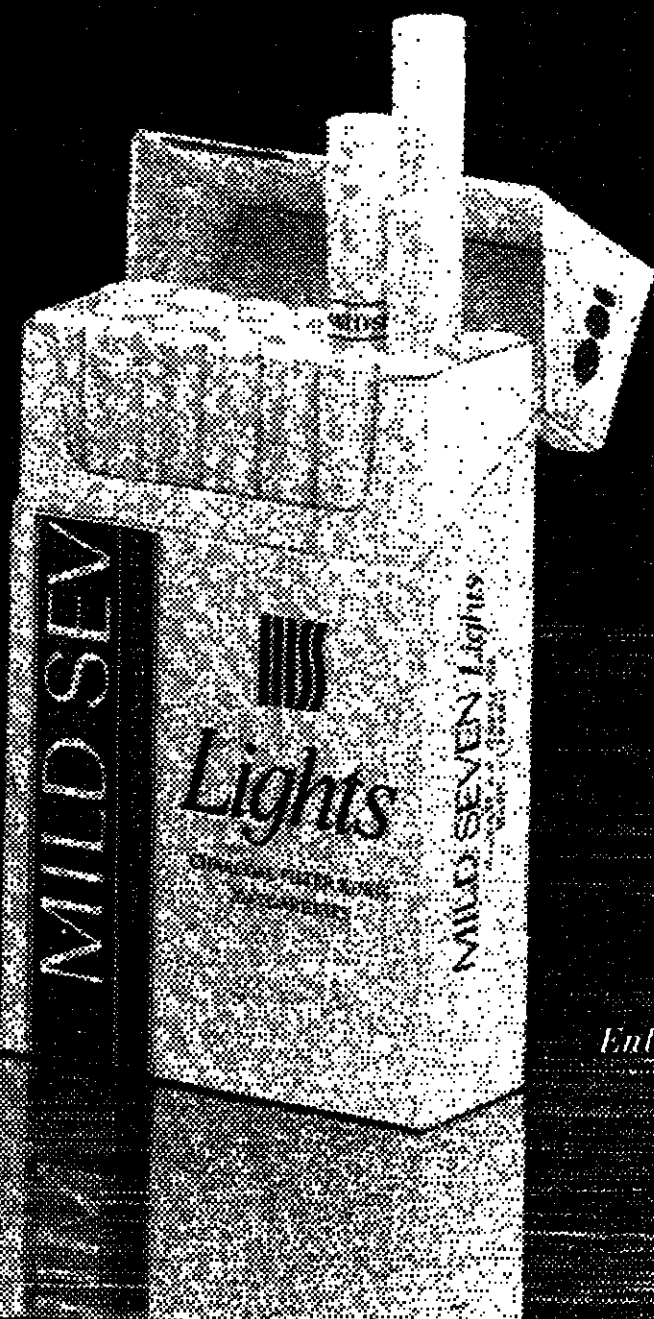
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For contact: Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital
Telephone: 2464723
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Protect interests, NAM states urged

Sheikh Sabah returns from New York

KUWAIT, May 11, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad returned home from New York where he led Kuwait's delegation to the 18th special session of the UN General Assembly on international economic co-operation.

In New York Sheikh Sabah delivered a major speech over international economic problems facing underdeveloped nations in particular.

Sheikh Sabah welcomed the admission to the UN of Namibia after a lasting heroic

struggle and expressed hope that independent Palestine would join the world's organisation.

He stressed the need to activate the UN's role in the enhancement of international economic co-operation urging the international community to enable the United Nations to undertake a prominent and permanent role in the economic and social fields and other issues of international mutual concern such as the environment and narcotics issues.

The deputy premier and foreign minister

also spoke in a special session of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement of the need for a "comprehensive assessment" of the current situation.

He urged NAM member states to draw a strategy taking under consideration challenges of the new decade and the movement's role in protecting interests of underdeveloped countries.

Sheikh Sabah also met in New York with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar discussing international political issues such as enhancing the ceasefire bet-

ween Iraq and Iran and activating the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

Both also discussed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the repressive Israeli measures. They also touched on prospects to solve the Western Sahara problem.

Sheikh Sabah also met in New York with a number of foreign ministers of friendly and sisterly countries discussing political and economic issues of mutual concern.

New labour law to be applied to all sectors

Spirit will be kept: Thamer

THE assistant undersecretary for labour affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Mohammed Shabnan Al Thamer has said that the new draft of the labour law will be applied on all sectors. The new law will include all experiments and developments which have been discussed in the country from the date of application of the present labour law in 1964. The draft law also includes principles and rules in labour agreements. He added that issuing such a law is not easy work because the state cannot make laws everyday. The draft law should be revised regularly by relevant authorities, he said.

Commenting on the application of the present ministerial decision relating to residence permits (15 months old), Thamer said that the decision concerns the organisation of labour and aims at achieving goals. The ministry is following up the consequences of the decision to avoid the negative aspects in application.

But he added that the ministry is applying the spirit of the decision and laws and not the letter. For example the ministry is still legalising situation of youths who have family residence permits and want to transfer to labour residence permits in the private sector. The

ministry also allows workers to transfer to another sponsor even before the end of the three years legal period with the original sponsor if this sponsor dies or has his activities stopped. "This shows that we seek to stabilise manpower and do not import workers we do not need or who have no jobs in Kuwait because this will cause problems in the future", he said.

He pointed out that the ministry has facilitated procedures at the labour departments. The formalities of renewing or cancelling work permits as well as issuing work permits for the first time are now being achieved in one day.

Rh disease treated for first time in Kuwait

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

TO NIMAT and Kais Mostafa, little Yara is the long-awaited baby after six miscarriages. But to the Central Blood Bank, she is the source of professional pride in a successful method of treatment that is tried for the first time in Kuwait and the Arab world.

Nimat, who moved to Kuwait less than two years ago, was referred to the Blood Bank from Addan Hospital with a case of Rh disease when she was five months into her seventh pregnancy. "Nimat's problem started when she was not given an anti-D shot after her first delivery. Her husband's Rhesus factor is positive and her's is negative."

Because the foetus inherited the positive factor from the father, a kind of incompatibility between the mother's blood and that of the foetus caused the immunological system of the mother to produce antibodies against the alien Rhesus factor. In subsequent pregnancies the antibodies lead to the breaking down of the foetus' red blood cells and all kinds of failures in its vital organs causing its death," explained Dr Mohamed Raafat Al Shafai, obstetrician and gynaecology consultant at Addan hospital.

Shafai added that Rh disease is a problem closely related to lack of medical awareness and capabilities in Third World countries and that it is almost non-existent in developed countries today.

Treatment
"It proved to be a problem in Nimat's case because we were left with only two choices for treatment. Choice one was an intra-uterine blood transfusion that is only done in Europe and the United States with slim chances of success and the possibility of foetal death. Choice two was changing the mother's blood plasma which contained the harmful antibodies," said Shafai adding that they had to go with the second choice after correspondence with a number of European centres was not encouraging. "They told us that their experience in intra-uterine transfusions is limited because Rh disease had ceased to be a problem in their countries a long time ago."

"More than 150 diseases could be treated by exchanging or removing one of the blood's con-



Proud mother with baby Yara.

stituents," explained head of the Haemapheresis Unit at the Blood Bank, Dr Osama Ibrahim Sharawi, who supervised Nimat's treatment. "But this method of treatment had not been used on a pregnant woman in Kuwait or in any other Arab country before and the chances of success were 50 to 75 per cent. Before Nimat was told about this method of treatment she had given up on having the healthy baby she and her husband had dreamed of for 10 years. "But when Dr Osama told me about it, I decided to go through with it no matter what because I had a feeling and a hope I was going to get a beautiful baby girl," said Nimat looking at one-month-old Yara adoringly.

"Therapy continued for 12 weeks at a rate of 3 to 4 sessions a week," said Sharawi adding that each session took about six hours.

"In 42 sessions, we succeeded in lowering the antibodies in Nimat's blood by 32 fold without affecting her general health," Sharawi said explaining that her blood was passed through a blood processor where the plasma was separated and the

rest of the blood constituents, together with certain substituted fluids were returned to the mother. About 4 to 6.5 litres of plasma were exchanged every session.

Success
"This medical achievement would not have been possible without the wonderful co-operation and support we received from Dr Abdulla Thiab in the ministry's medical stores and all doctors and nursing staff at Haemodialysis Unit at Mubarak Hospital's ward 1," said Sharawi. "Our success makes this kind of treatment possible for many such cases in Kuwait. It will save them the costs of seeking such treatment abroad which could be as high as \$250,000," Sharawi proudly added.

Yara, who was delivered one month prematurely by Caesarean section, is in perfect health, Shafai assured the ecstatic parents. "Be sure to remind us when you celebrate her first birthday. In a sense she is our daughter too and we want to share the occasion with you," Dr Abdul Aziz Bashir, manager of the Blood Bank told Nimat and Kais.

Kuwait rejects Australian sheep

By Ahmed Ayash

KUWAIT has recently refused to accept a consignment of Australian sheep of that had been previously rejected by Saudi Arabia, the daily Al Seyassah quoted well informed sources at Kuwait Livestock, Transport and Trading Company (KLTTTC) as saying.

Saudi Arabia, according to a report from Abu Dhabi recently rejected 55,000 heads of Australian sheep. The source was commenting in this respect and said that after negotiations with KLTTTC the Kuwaiti Animal Health Department decided not to accept any sheep consignment that might be rejected by Saudi Arabia.

He added that the consignment which was aboard a ship "Courdeal Express" may be

marketed in another country in the Arab Gulf area.

Saudi Arabia has commented in this connection that the kingdom has decided to reject any sheep consignment in case the relevant sheep were over three years old.

Saudi Arabia has rejected last year about 400,000 heads of Australian sheep as according to Saudi sources the sheep were infected. The Saudi decision resulted in the suspension of Australian sheep exports to the Arab Gulf countries for four months.

The consignments were resumed last December and some Australian sources commented at that time that Australian sheep exporters would no longer exploit the Arab Gulf region as destination for getting rid of old sheep.

NCCAL seminar ends

KUWAIT, May 11, (Kuna): The seminar on Arab cultural periodicals, present and future prospects, has adopted a host of recommendations providing for creating a cultural atmosphere that guarantees positive contribution in receiving and giving knowledge.

Secretary general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Dr Farouk Al Omar said the seminar which was inaugurated by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed last Monday has called on writers, intellectuals and those in charge of publications to keep literature and culture "an open sky and a joint ground that overcome the factors of division and that gather the intellectuals of the nation."

In a press statement, Omar said the seminar held May 7-10 in which 30 Arab intellectuals and researchers took part, has regarded the big number of magazines and the different ways in handling issues in their analysis as a positive element for enriching Arab culture.

Dr Omar pointed out that the conference has agreed that providing the democratic atmosphere is a basic condition for development of the Arab cultural periodicals and that it is important to find suitable solutions for the problem of censorship.

Action Line

I WOULD like to bring by grand-daughter to Kuwait from USA to stay with us for a period of two years. She is six months old, holding US citizenship. Her mother is in the US. My resident permit is valid upto October 1992. I'll appreciate your advice.

V.R. Patel

FAMILY visas — for wife and daughters — are issued by the immigration department, provided the sponsor (husband/father) draws the required salary. There is no provision for granting residence status to such relatives as fathers, mothers, sisters or grand-daughters. However, we advise you to visit the immigration department and make an application. Officials at the department would be in a better position to give you appropriate advice.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1986 as a housemaid and worked with my first employer for only nine months. In September that year I began working for another employer.

My employers are leaving the country for good next year. What will their responsibility for me be before they leave, in case I can find another job? My profession is in the passport as a "service staff". Could I hold any other job or do I have to be employed as a maid? Could anyone leave the country on vacation before his/her work permit expires?

J.C.M.

BEFORE your employers leave, they must give you a release so that your visa can be transferred to the sponsorship of the next sponsor. Although you did mention, most probably you hold visa No. 20, which means that you can only hold a domestic job.

A foreigner's visa must be renewed at least one month before its expiry. If someone went on holiday six months' before the visa expires, they must come well in time to apply for a renewal.

You have also asked if you can change your job. This can be done if you obtain a visa No. 18.

MY EMPLOYER has terminated my contract according to the three months notice period stipulated in the contract. I have a fixed period contract with the company, which has been extended six times.

My employer is requesting me to sign a document for receiving my indemnity, which I am entitled to get, however, in the same document it is mentioned that I cannot take up employment with a competitor within two years. Please advise.

R.L.B.

THE company does not have a right to force you to sign any document with such a clause. If they refuse, you can file a case against the company, through the Social Affairs Ministry, seeking a transfer of residence.

I WORKED for a private company which was liquidated by the court. I completed 10 months service with the company. Am I eligible for the following:

1. Salary for 15 days notice period from the date of receiving the notice.
2. Annual leave salary for the period I have worked.
3. Gratuity for the period I have worked.

They refuse to pay the above mentioned saying that I did not complete one year employment.

Varughese

YOU are entitled to receive the salary provided you have worked during the notice period at the end of which you must be paid. There is another alternative. The company can pay you the notice period salary and ask you not to continue employment.

2. You don't have the right of annual leave as you did not complete one year employment.

3. You are entitled to get the gratuity for the period of 10 months.

I AM disappointed to note that my company imposed a policy of reverting over overtime during official holidays to regular pay instead of giving us double pay according to the labour law.

If any one of the employees does not agree to render overtime during official holidays any longer can this be a ground for the company to terminate the contract of such an employee?

Does the company have the right to force an employee to work overtime on single-pay basis?

By the law, is double pay compulsory or optional?

Robensaire

THE company must pay double wages if an employee works on an official holiday.

The termination of a contract is on the discretion of the company. You did not send your contract copy. I must go through your contract before giving you a definite reply regarding this matter.

If a job requires you to put in extra hours on an official holiday, you don't have the right to refuse working but at the same time you are entitled to receive overtime payment.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel. 4847495.

Development

S. Arabia model of achievement

WASHINGTON, May 11, (Opecna): The performance of Saudi Arabia's economy through the kingdom's successive five-year development plans is a model of achievement, it has been reported here.

According to an economic research study, developing countries could well follow the Saudi example in the promotion of their national resources.

The study, featured in a publication issued by the Georgetown University, says the Saudi government had adopted "wise plans" in securing positive growth for the national economy.

It cites the country's petroleum policies as the "main corner" for success in the international economic system, particularly over the past two decades.

The report highlights the extent to which Saudi Arabia had gone in co-operating with other Opec member countries in support of oil market stability, even when oil prices were falling and the kingdom's foreign income suffering as a result.

It lauds the "government's" policy to diversify its economic resources and develop non-oil sectors.

As a result, it says, Saudi oil exports as a percentage of total exports had "declined remarkably" over the years, mainly due to increased overseas sales of petrochemical and agricultural products, especially wheat.

"The Saudi policy to diversify income resources has taken into consideration that oil is a depletable natural resource and that the kingdom should utilise its oil revenues to set up infrastructures for industrial and agricultural sectors and not to depend on oil as a key income resource," it states.



Zayed in China

United Arab Emirates President Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan adjusts his robe during a visit to the Great Wall of China on Thursday. Sheikh Zayed is on a five-day official goodwill visit to China.

Saline plants suitable as fodder: Abdul

A SENIOR official at the arid land farming department at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Mahdi Abdul has said that saline plants are suitable as fodder for the high nutritional value.

He told a local daily that the oil extracted from these plants can be used in different types of food used by man and that the discarded remainder of these plants can be used as rations for poultry and ruminants in general.

Over and above, these plants can be used to increase the stretch of vegetation in Kuwait and also ornamental plants at low cost compared to other types of plants.

Abdul said that the scientific results of this plants have shown that the productivity per hectare reach 15 tons of dry fodder and one and a half tons of high-protein seeds.

He said that the planting of 10,000 hectares with Salicornia in a place with similar climate conditions as in Kuwait can feed 200,000 people and that the protein-rich plants fodder can be used as rations to feed three quarters of a million chickens.

Harvest can be reaped in seven months and that this type of crop is considered an annual crop, where the grains are gathered to extract their oil and the remainder is used as fodder for cattle, the official said.

He said that KISR grew this crop in two seasons and initial information was gathered about the growth rate in sandy lands, and the results proved that this type of crop was suitable for growth in Kuwait climatic conditions.

Aids scare in Bahrain

TOP level press sources in Bahrain have been quoted as saying that there has been a ban on the use of the German medication known as BBSP-Bio-test, in the wake of news reports saying that it caused Aids.

The sources said that the ban was issued following a massive wave of investigations by the Ministry of Health aimed at verifying news reports that the medication supplied to agents in the region and official releases by the health ministries in some Gulf states caused Aids.

The medication is used for the treatment of certain types of blood coagulation, and sources

revealed that the hazards of this medication emanated from the fact that it facilitated the transmissibility of the Aids virus, and other high-danger viruses.

Dr Rashed Flaifil, undersecretary of the Health Ministry in Bahrain said that the ministry is currently making arrangements to double check all supply orders upon receipt of official information from the World Health Organisation in this regard.

He pointed out that the ministry followed a strict system for importing medication orders, adding that unregistered medications are denied access into the country by the authorities.

Kuwaiti message

KUWAIT, May 11, (Kuna): Oman's Minister of Labour and Professional Training Moatsem Bin Hmoud Al Badir Saeedi received a message from Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Radio Muscat reported.

Sheikh Nasser's message invited the Omani minister to visit Kuwait within the framework of exchange of visits between the two countries to boost bilateral relations within the collective Arab Gulf efforts.

The message was delivered by Charge d'Affaires at Kuwaiti embassy in Muscat Mohammed Saud Bader during a meeting with the Omani minister at his office this morning.



Austrian Ambassador Hans Demel (second left) announces details of the Austrian Week. He is flanked by Hermann Simon of Kuwait International and Bernhard Baack and Franz Knapptitsch (right).

Austria launches trade and travel exhibition

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

AUSTRIA launched yesterday its first large-scale trade and travel exhibition in Kuwait in a last-minute bid to attract visitors before the onset of the tourist season in June.

A series of events is planned at the Kuwait International Hotel between May 11 and 15 featuring Austrian products, portraying its tourist attractions, and offering a sampling of Austrian classical music, folklore and cuisine. To top it all up the Austrians will fly a gigantic hot air balloon from the beach in front of the hotel that will be airborne by Austrian Airlines pilots. But the centrepiece of the Austrian week will be a famous Vienna Opera Ball hosted by Austrian Ambassador Hans Demel who will inaugurate the event with a traditional dance, the Polonaise.

Vienna waltz lovers had an opportunity to indulge in the music of Strauss yesterday evening while the folk music concert will be held tomorrow.

Austria, a small central European country has carved a niche for itself on the competitive Kuwaiti market and has been successful in attracting visitors to its scenic spots.

Bernhard Baack of Austrian Airlines, which has two flights a week to Vienna, noted that 5,500 Kuwaitis asked for visas to Austria last year, a figure which is expected to grow by up to 18 per cent this year. With an eye on the future the Austrians have already begun promoting events to commemorate next year the 200th death anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, considered by many the world's greatest composer.

The backbone of the Austrian presence in Kuwait are its products and companies that offer services in construction industry and supply the Kuwaiti market with a variety of goods including foodstuffs, gift items and paper products.

Austrian Commercial Counsellor Dr Franz Knapptitsch said his country's exports to Kuwait amounted to \$32 million last year.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

GOODNESS is the only investment that never fails —
— Henry David Thoreau, US writer (1817-1862)

Centam struggling

Pact yet to realise aim

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, (AP): Central America has achieved neither peace nor complete democracy through the pact Oscar Arias drafted in 1987, but has taken steps toward both and is poised for more.

Arias, who ends his four-year presidential term last week and hands the presidency to Rafael Calderon, wants to see the isthmus demilitarized and its 28 million people achieve full human and political rights in this decade.

His departure marks the symbolic end of the group of five presidents who set a region embroiled in wars on a path toward peace. Arias won the 1987 Nobel peace prize for leading the effort.

Former president Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador died of cancer Feb 23. Jose Azcona Hoyo of Honduras left office in January, and Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua surrendered power last month after an upset loss to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

The fifth signer of the peace plan, Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala, is scheduled to leave office in January 1991 after elections later this year.

Replaced

In a region known for coups and revolutions, all the five have been or are being replaced peacefully, through free elections.

Arias warns that the movement toward peace in Central America could be erased unless economic development accompanies democratization.

"It will not be possible to consolidate the democracies that have emerged in Central America unless we are successful in the economic and social fields," he said in an interview. "This is the great challenge. If the democracies don't deliver the goods, we will not end the decade with democratic regimes."

Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, his foreign minister, said in a separate interview "If a person lives in misery, liberty loses its meaning."

Costa Rica is relatively prosperous, but misery abounds in the four other nations between it and Mexico.

Statistics of life expectancy, infant mortality, literacy and access to potable water make it clear the region is one of the world's most desperate.

Arias sees his country, the area's showcase of civic culture, as a model for the others. Costa Rica abolished its armed forces 41 years ago and has lived in peace and democracy since.

"The decade of the '90s must be the decade of disarmament if we want greater development," he said. "Costa Rica buys tractors while the rest of Central America buys tanks. Tractors produce food. Tanks do not."

The gap between the rich northern nations and the poor southern ones continues to widen. Rich countries' commitments to poor countries are not increasing, so we must depend more on internal savings. We must dedicate our resources to the satisfaction of our peoples' needs and not to buying arms."

Peace plan

The five presidents' peace plan, known as Esquipulas II for the Guatemalan town where it was made final in 1987, faces its biggest remaining hurdle in El Salvador, where a 10-year-old civil war continues to claim lives and spread destruction.

Leftist rebels and representatives of President Alfredo Christiani's US-backed government are to resume peace talks this month. Negotiations broke off late last year after two fruitless sessions.

Rebel leaders say they want to abandon armed struggle for political action, but also accuse Christiani's government of serving as a civilian facade for a military regime that grossly violates human rights.

Insurgent demands include a purge of human rights abusers from the armed forces, and reform of the judicial and electoral systems.

Arias and Foreign Minister Madrigal say recent changes in Eastern Europe and, as Arias put it, "the end of the cold war," make this a propitious time for the Salvadorean talks.

Neither the government nor rebel appears to have substantially modified positions that led to stalemate last year, however.

Moving Nicaragua's election, originally scheduled for autumn to February and an internal agreement to end its civil war are the firmest results of the Arias plan so far.

Disband

A pact signed by US-backed Costa rebels, the Sandinista army, Chamorro's anti-Sandinista government commits the Contras to disband by June 10, but peace is not assured.

Several thousands Contras are assembled in five internationally monitored security zones inside Nicaragua.

Contra commanders have made tough demands of Mrs Chamorro, principally that Sandinistas be purged from ranking positions in the army and police.

One of Honduras' great burdens was eased in April when thousands of Contras based there for years abandoned their camps and returned to Nicaragua, but consolidation of democracy in both Honduras and Guatemala is proving slow and difficult.

Their armed forces have far more political power than would be tolerated in true democracies. Corruption and drug trafficking threaten to undermine progress toward modern democratic systems.

"We cannot say the peace plan has been a success, that peace and democracy have been established," Madrigal said, "but we have made notable advances and I see a new attitude that favours further progress."

He spoke of the other countries, where dictatorships were the norm for most of this century, as advancing along a sort of democracy scale.

"Before, they were at zero," he said. "Now they are at 10 or 15. They're far from 100, but it is inevitable that they will continue to advance — some in the short term; other will take longer."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1535 — Britain and Scotland sign peace treaty.
- 1536 — Sir Francis Weston, Mark Smeaton and other alleged paramours of England's Queen Anne Boleyn go on trial for treason.
- 1608 — Protestant Union of German Princes opposing Catholic bloc is formed at Anhausen.
- 1689 — Britain and Holland join League of Augsburg, which becomes the Grand Alliance.
- 1881 — Bey of Tunis accepts French protectorate over North Borneo and Brunei.
- 1888 — Britain establishes protectorate over North Borneo and Brunei.
- 1897 — Turks defeat Greeks in Thessaly and major powers intervene in war.
- 1915 — Forces of South Africa's Louis Botha occupy Windhoek, capital of German Southwest Africa.
- 1926 — Josef Pilsudski stages coup in Poland.
- 1938 — Germany recognises emperor of Manchukuo; Japanese warship capture Chinese island of Amoy.
- 1943 — Battle of North Africa ends in World War II with German surrender of Cap Bon in Tunisia.
- 1962 — South African general law amendment bill imposes death penalty for sabotage.
- 1965 — West Germany establishes diplomatic relations with Israel, and Arab states break off diplomatic relations with Bonn government.
- 1975 — United States announces that a Cambodian naval ship has seized US merchant ship Mayaguez in international waters 60 miles off Cambodian coast.
- 1988 — World Health Organisation says more than 34,000 Aids cases have been reported world-wide.

Agenda for union acceptable

SPD win confirms support

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): With German unification firmly on course, East Germans used both local elections to issue a warning to ruling parties and boost citizens' groups, diplomats say.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's Christian Democrats (CDU), the Social Democrats (SPD) and the once omnipotent but now humbled communists (PDS) finished first, second and third in Sunday's voting just as they did in parliamentary elections in March.

The confirmation of the CDU and SPD, partners in a coalition government, as East Germany's two strongest parties pointed to widespread basic acceptance of De Maiziere's agenda for swift union with West Germany.

But the CDU slumped from 40.8 per cent in March to 34.3 per cent this weekend and the SPD from 21.9 to 21.2 per cent, while support for grassroots groups and independents soared from less than two per cent to over 12.

Protest

"It was not a true protest vote because the communists, who would brake the unity process, lost votes as well (from 16.4 to 14.5 per cent), said a Western diplomat.

"People didn't give the grassroots groups a chance in the March elections because it was too risky — they would have slowed down unity too. But now it's decided, people are giving the grassroots a chance to make an impact."

While East Germans overwhelmingly look forward to saving the spending the robust deutchmark when economic union takes effect in July, they worry increasingly about free market problems like inflation and unemployment.

As a result, citizens' movements and independents campaigned to temper capitalism's hard edges where they will be most keenly felt — at local level. For example, groups like New Forum stood for preserving state-funded day care centres, which many East Germans fear the main parties could sacrifice to Bonn's free market policies.

A fledgling farmers' movement attracted almost two per cent of the vote by articulating anger over an influx of West German produce pushing local crops out of the market. Farmers have blockaded border crossings in protest.

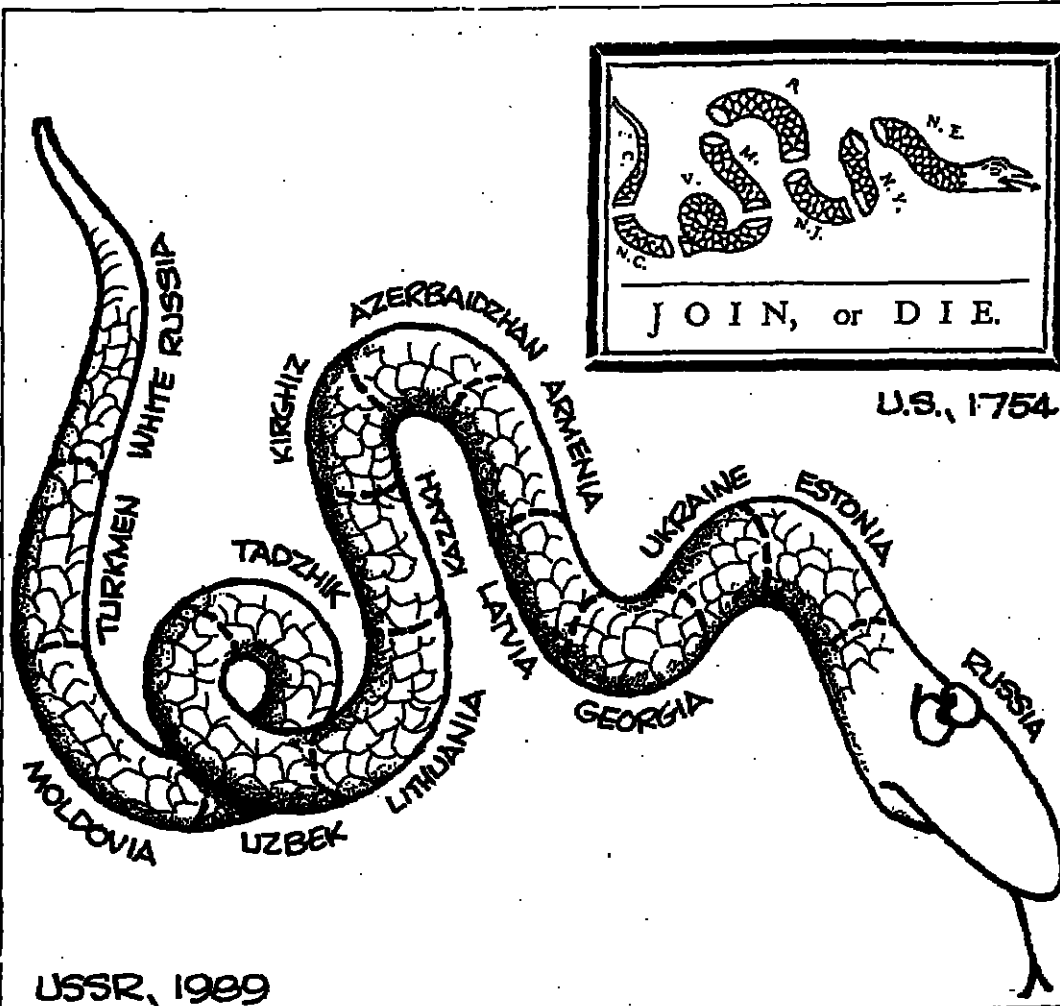
Many farmers also fear being dispossessed of plots given them under communist agrarian reform decades ago but now being claimed by former landowners in West Germany.

"The showing of the farmers' groups and the resurgence of the Farmers Party (DBD) shows how farmers do not trust the main parties to preserve their tenures to land," said another Western diplomat.

The DBD was originally one of four small parties subservient to the communists under the old system. "They worry that the junkers are coming back," he said, referring to aristocratic landowners whose estates covered northeastern Germany until the end of World War II.

The CDU may have overcome worries by some voters over a strictly limited conversion of weak East German marks for deutchmarks at parity agreed in unity talks with Bonn.

Disappointment could not have been widespread.



Second holy war taking shape in Pakistan for Kashmir

Leaders huddle in back-alley rooms and plot the course of a government-in-exile

MUZZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 11. (AP) — In dusty bazaars and graffiti-covered streets overshadowed by peaceful, cathedral-like mountains, young men eagerly talk of a holy war.

In hushed voices muffled by brightly-coloured bandanas that hide their faces, they say they are Islamic warriors on a freedom-or-death struggle against a mighty army that occupies their homeland.

A new jihad is taking shape, a holy war to create an independent nation from Jammu-Kashmir, the only Muslim state in predominantly Hindu India.

The leaders huddle in back-alley rooms and plot the course of a government-in-exile, while fleeing refugees cross the snow-

covered mountains and pitch their tents along the safer side of a tense border.

Lacking massive weapons supplies, money and guerrilla training, these new mujahedeen — "holy warriors" — are returning for help to their Muslim brethren on another battlefield: Afghanistan.

"There is no difference between the Afghan jihad and the Kashmiri jihad," said Sheikh Rashid, a Kashmiri and a right-wing opposition leader who has asked religious leaders in Islam's holiest cities to declare jihad in Kashmir, an act that theoretically would oblige all Muslims to support the war.

Pakistan and India have always been uneasy neighbours since the 1947 partition of the

subcontinent, and the crisis over Kashmir has intensified that long-standing animosity.

Both countries claim the state, which is split along a contested frontier where their troops and an escalating war of words by both sides recently has heightened fears of another confrontation.

India accuses Pakistan of arming, training and harbouring the separatists in dozens of guerrilla camps along the border. Pakistan denies the claim and says India has unleashed a bloody crackdown on a movement for self-determination.

Government officials and militant leaders estimate as many as 8,000 people have slipped into Pakistan-controlled territory of Azad Kashmir, meaning "Free

Kashmir," since the crackdown began in late January. Many are young men escaping curfews, house-to-house searches and possible arrest by Indian troops, they said.

Inspired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's emotional pledges that "your blood is our blood," they came to Pakistan expecting weapons, money and training in guerrilla warfare. All they got, they said, was food, shelter and the right to speak their minds.

"The cause we are fighting for is self-determination. Our cause is a just cause, a holy war. But Pakistan is doing nothing," said Ghulam Mohammad Sati, leader of Hezb-ul-Mujahideen, or Party of Islamic Holy Warriors, the most militarily

organised of the six Kashmiri resistance groups based in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir.

"Pakistan supported the Afghan resistance. We expect something more," said Sati, a 40-year-old former schoolteacher who left Indian Kashmir in March. "The Pakistan army didn't intervene in Afghanistan. We expect Pakistan to wage war against India."

Benazir's government says it doesn't want another war with India and has called for talks to settle the dispute. But the leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, the group spearheading the independence movement, says an agreement reached without the Kashmiris' consent is doomed.

"We have our own agenda. We are determined to win our freedom any way possible, by any means possible," said Raja Muzaffar Khan, pulling out invoices for the purchase of 1.5 million rupees (\$70,000) worth of weapons and ammunition from the tribal areas on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The bill included a 36,000-rupee (1,675-US dollar) charge for a smuggler to carry eight French-made machine-guns to Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir and the centre of the secessionist movement.

Muzaffar Khan said the weapons were bought with money from Kashmiris living in the United States, Europe as well as the Arab and Gulf states. "We'll buy more as the need

arises," he said.

Although the militants have been unable to set up any formal camps for commando training, Muzaffar Khan said the dense mountain forests are being used to show individuals how to use automatic weapons and handguns.

"There are a lot of places where we can operate without the knowledge of either government," he said. He said his organisation has been handing out pamphlets with instructions on how to fire weapons and has made a demonstration videotape.

Nearly 1,500 Kashmiris have gone to Afghanistan for actual combat training with the mujahedeen who battled the Soviet Red Army for nine years and

now are trying to topple the Kremlin-supported government in Kabul, militant leaders say.

Dozens of Afghan war veterans from the Middle East are dividing their time between battlefields, they say.

The seven leaders of the well-armed and heavily-financed Afghan mujahedeen groups also have offered assistance, according to Abdul Qayyum, president of Azad Kashmir. The offers have been declined, he said.

Qayyum says his government is taking steps to prevent the city from becoming the main transit route for weapons and is planning to shut down the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, which he accused of terrorist activities and branded "a nuisance."



Decorated van

A heavily decorated passenger van stands on a street corner in the northern Pakistani city of Rawalpindi. Pakistanis spend huge amounts of money to decorate their vehicles, transforming them into flamboyant works of folk art. (Reuters wirephoto)

Storm toll rises to 210

HYDERABAD, May 11. (UPI) — Rescue workers today fanned out across the interior of coastal Andhra Pradesh state devastated by a hurricane that has claimed at least 210 lives, left an unknown number marooned and deprived nearly 5 million people of electricity.

The hurricane, meanwhile, moved further inland, degenerating into a storm that crept towards the state capital of Hyderabad, officials said.

Relief Commissioner C. Arjun Rao told United Press International that 500 relief teams moved into areas battered by the hurricane, distributing food to stranded villagers, providing medical attention and assessing the damage.

He said at least 210 people had died due to weather-related incidents and the toll would probably go up once relief workers were able to inspect coastal areas.

"The maximum number of people died in Guntur district, where damage was widespread," said Rao. He said the districts of Krishna, East Godavari and West Godavari were also affected.

Prime Minister V.P. Singh was expected to arrive tomorrow for a tour of the area.

About 200 workers set about clearing four main roads leading to isolated coastal areas of the state, where telecommunication links had been disrupted, Rao said. He said the roads, choked by fallen trees and debris, were expected to be cleared by tomorrow morning.

"Right now the greatest challenge is opening up those inaccessible areas and supplying food, mainly in the Krishna district," Rao said. "In the meantime, we will conduct aerial surveys and also be dropping food from helicopters into areas where it is required."

Rao said nine Indian air force helicopters were being used in the operations and three other helicopters had arrived from the southern city of Bangalore for relief work.

The hurricane severely damaged two thermal power stations in Vijayawada, leaving without power nearly 5 million people residing in districts around the city, 150 miles (240 km) southeast of Hyderabad.

Chief Minister M. Chenna Reddy and other government officials took off for an aerial survey of the affected areas, but were soon forced to return due to bad weather.

The cyclone, with peak winds of 250 km (155 miles) per hour, swept onto land from the Bay of Bengal on Wednesday and moved inland Thursday, reports said.

The storm weakened today, but remained strong enough to swamp inland areas with heavy rain that was expected to last another 12 hours, reports said.

United News of India, said 137 people died in the Andhra Pradesh, which bore the brunt of the storm's strong wind, heavy rain and tidal waves.

US fears repercussions

Clash over Kashmir

WASHINGTON, May 11. (Reuters) — The United States has more than the peace of South Asia in mind as it urges Pakistan and India to cool their potentially warlike confrontation over Kashmir. It fears the dispute could suck in both Moscow and Beijing.

Foreign policy analysts say an Indo-Pakistani war over the Himalayan country bordering China could force the superpowers to take sides, with Washington backing its old ally Pakistan and Moscow supporting longtime aid-recipient India.

"The last thing one would want is to have us choosing up sides in the (South Asia) region," said Thomas Thornton, an Asia specialist at Johns Hopkins University.

Two-thirds of predominantly Muslim Kashmir is controlled by majority Hindu India, and one-third by Muslim Pakistan. It has been a thorn in relations between them since they gained independence in 1947.

An uprising since mid-January in India's portion, known as Jammu and Kashmir, has killed about 300 people and fanned fears of a fourth war.

The obvious conclusion is that this sort of proxy showdown — familiar in cold war conflicts from Southeast Asia to Latin America — is the last thing the United States and the Soviet Union want as they build on a growing rapport and try to create a new power balance in Europe.

The simmering secessionist movement in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, ignited violence in January and prompted a crackdown by Delhi.

At least 13 people have been killed in recent clashes between Indian security forces and Muslim militants along the border between India and Pakistan, and in the northern city of Srinagar.

The United States, a major supplier of arms to Pakistan, is deeply worried by the increasingly hostile war of words between the two countries. India accuses Pakistan of arming Kashmiri militants, and is accused in return of robbing the Kashmiri people of the right to self-determination.

Selig Harrison, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the United States should suspend arms sales to Pakistan until the conflict has been resolved.

He argues that India, as a democratic power in the region with the world's fourth-largest army, is more important strategically to the United States than Pakistan.

"We cannot afford to alienate India," he said. The United States has been allied with Pakistan as a pro-Western bulwark in South Asia since it was created, but military links between them strengthened when Pakistan helped funnel US arms to the mujahedeen rebels fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

The Soviet Union has been a major supplier of arms to India and traditionally had closer political and diplomatic ties than Washington.

US-Indian relations, chilly for years, only started to warm up in the mid-1980s.

Muslim militants in Jammu and Kashmir want either to form a separate country or join with Pakistan.

US officials believe both nations want to avoid another clash over Kashmir. But some US experts fear the tensions are aggravated by a perception that each country has a politically weak government — under Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan, and Vishwanath Pratap Singh in India.

5,000 expelled for cheating

10 teachers dismissed in Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 11. (Reuters) — Bangladesh school examination officials said they expelled more than 5,000 students for cheating on the first day of college entry examinations on Thursday and dismissed 10 teachers for helping cheaters.

Teachers hid under tables and angry students hurled stones, shoes and coconut shells at police during a riotous opening day of the secondary school certificate tests. Nearly 450,000 students will take the month-long tests to qualify for college.

Police fired birdshot and used batons and teargas to restore order at 50 centres, where many students

marshalled and demonstrated in support of their right to cheat. Fifty people were arrested and more than 100 injured in the clashes.

Widespread cheating is a regular feature in Bangladesh school, college and university examinations despite frequent attempts to eliminate it.

In an eastern Comilla district centre, students chanted "right to cheating is as important as right to freedom" and "do or die." In other centres, students complained of tight monitoring and jeered teachers, singing "we shall overthrow you."

The Bangladesh government banned assembly of more than four per-

Nepal reds rapping

KATHMANDU, May 11. (Agencies) — Nepal's leading communist said today that King Birendra was trying to undermine the new interim government and called for an investigation into the "ill-gotten" wealth of monarchists.

"Every effort is being made by the palace to discredit and undermine this government," Manmohan Adhikari, general secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal, said in an interview.

"The aim is not to allow this government to function," he said, adding that army, police and top bureaucrats were not co-operating with Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's administration.

The government yesterday lifted a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed on Kathmandu after anti-police riots 17 days ago, in which eight officers were beaten to death by mobs accusing them of being monarchists.

Bhattarai, who came to power after massive pro-democracy demonstrations in Kathmandu last month, heads a coalition of the liberal Nepal Congress Party and a United Left Front led by the Communist Party of Nepal.

"The king is instigating experienced bureaucrats to create problems for this government," said Adhikari, who has spent 15 of the past 30 years in jail.

"They keep things secret from the ministers. They come to the office but they don't tell you anything," he said. Adhikari said the United Left Front had agreed to the idea of a constitutional monarchy and its main demand was to investigate the money made by palace loyalists.

"The ill-gotten wealth amassed in the last 30 years must be investigated. Everybody knows how much wealth they have. It can be checked."

The interim government today accepted a constitution reform commission announced by Birendra but spokesman of member parties criticised the unilateral manner of the monarch, signalling the difficulties in Nepal's transition to democracy.

The interim government headed by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai had not been consulted by the king in announcing the reform commission which will draft a new constitution for the landlocked country.

Bhopal gas compensation not enough

NEW DELHI, May 11. (Reuters) — India's minister for petroleum and chemicals said that the \$470 million Union Carbide agreed to pay victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy was "far too low and not adequate."

Malangi S. Gurupadaswamy said during a visit to Bhopal a final decision on compensation would be made after India's attorney-general visits the United States, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

He did not give a date for the US visit, which he said was to study American law on this issue, or say what the government would do about the settlement.

At least 2,500 were killed in Bhopal on December 3, 1984 by a gas leak from a pesticides factory belonging to an Indian subsidiary of the US company.

Gurupadaswamy said life in India was not that cheap, referring to the settlement agreed by the former government of Rajiv Gandhi last year as final compensation for some 300,000 survivors.

Rajiv's government, replaced by the National Front after the 1989 elections, reached the agreement with the company after the Indian supreme court absolved it of criminal liability.

The new government has asked the supreme court to review its decision.

Bandaranaike backs Arabs

LTTE raps repatriation

COLOMBO, May 11. (Kuna) — Sri Lankan opposition leader, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, said "Israel is the only country in the world that has occupied territories of its neighbours."

Bandaranaike, a former prime minister of the island, told at a public meeting that all people should express their solidarity with the government on the closure of the Israeli interests section in Colombo. This would also be a measure of expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

She said, despite the United Nations resolution to provide territory for the Palestinian Arabs, Israel has seized their land and has also occupied parts of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

Meanwhile, speaker of the House of Representatives of the island, Mohamed Haniffa Mohamed, who was elected president of the Pan-Arab-Sri Lanka Friendship Association, said that it was a non-political and non-ethnic body in which all people could become members.

Mohamed said he had met Palestine President Yasser Arafat in New Delhi recently and had invited him to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Sri Lankan govern-

ment which had been accepted. Sri Lankan police said yesterday they had shot dead the ringleader of an armed gang that burst into a hotel last week and stripped tourists of their cash, jewellery, watches and cameras.

They said Herath Banda Prematilaka, identified as an area leader of a leftist rebel group, was killed when police raided his jungle hideout near Sigiriya, the town in north-central Sri Lanka where the robbery took place.

The People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT), the political wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri Lanka's northern-based Tamil militant group, today condemned the Sri Lankan government's decision to repatriate 100,000 Indian passport holders to India.

The PFLT said in a statement that the Indian plantation worker "did not come to the island to amass wealth for himself but to improve the country."

The leader of Sri Lanka's dominant Muslim party has appealed to a Bangkok-based conference to work out ways to ensure the freedom and justice of the Muslim community living in the island's north-eastern region.

Tibetans' government-in-exile resigns

DHARMSALA, India, May 11. (AP) — The Dalai Lama today announced the resignation of his government-in-exile and said he was dissolving its parliament to give exiled Tibetans a greater voice in running their community.

Addressing a special congress of 392 Tibetan delegates, the Dalai Lama said the exile government's eight cabinet ministers had resigned on Wednesday. He also said the parliament-in-exile, elected once every five years by Tibetans living in India, was being dissolved.

Until now, the cabinet was appointed by the Dalai Lama, who is the head of Tibet's government-in-exile and also the spiritual leader of 6 million Tibetans world-wide.

But the Dalai Lama said he was changing the system to try to give Tibetans a greater role in running their affairs.

He said that in the future the parliament, known as the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, would choose the cabinet.

In the meantime, he said, a new cabinet would be chosen by the special congress in the next three or four days.

Elections normally are held every five years among Tibetans living in Dharamsala and in other settlements in India. The Dalai Lama didn't say today when the next elections would be held.

Lhasang Tsering, president of the Tibetan Youth Congress, which advocates an armed struggle for Tibet's independence from China, said he believed most exiled Tibetans supported the Dalai Lama's decision to reform the government.

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World News Roundup

America

Jews arrive: Artem Segalin, a 23-year-old engineering student from Moscow, was among the first in a group of Soviet Jews to arrive in Atlanta, where they hope to start a new life.

"I haven't the words to say my dream today opened," Segalin said in a hastily acquired English, moments after stepping off a plane at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport. "I know Israel is the land of my ancestors but my dream is the United States."

The 80 Soviet Jews who arrived in Atlanta Tuesday night, to be followed by another group about the same size Wednesday, are part of a rising wave of emigration from the Soviet Union made possible by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms. (AP)

Female sheriff: Bessie Butler says if elected sheriff she will move into the jail and cook for the prisoners.

Just do not expect her to mother the inmates. "I can hold down a horse, and I have raised with my sons, and I can take care of myself," said the 63-year-old former horse wrangler, camp cook and sawmill worker. "I am not scared of no man, and I never have been."

Her husband, 84-year-old Tex Butler, who ran unsuccessfully for sheriff in 1982, added, "she's a crack shot, too. She can outwork and outshoot any man." (AP)

Woman awarded: A jury awarded more than \$246,000 to a woman who was sexually abused by a Lutheran minister in St. Louis park seven years ago when she was still a teenager.

The woman claimed she suffered physical and psychological damage when former Westwood Lutheran associate pastor Richard Mitchell coerced her into a sexual relationship during spiritual counseling when she was 15.

The jury reached its verdict after five hours of deliberation.

"This is an acknowledgment that people are prepared to hold clergymen to a level of responsibility," said Jeffrey Anderson, the woman's lawyer. (UPI)

Screening inaccurate: A computer system used at US border crossings to screen out criminals contains inaccuracies, investigators have concluded, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The system's defects may have resulted in a "significant impairment" of the ability of border agents to prevent criminals from entering the country, the New York Times said.

The problem dates back to the creation of the computer records, investigators with the General Accounting Office, the auditing arm of Congress, said in a report to a House panel. (AP)

Lawyer attacked: The lawyer for a racial murder defendant was attacked by a group of demonstrators Wednesday as jurors deliberated for their first full day without reaching a verdict.

Before retiring, the jury asked to review Keith Mondello's signed statement about his admitted involvement in the shooting. The panel also asked the trial judge, Justice Thaddeus Owens of state supreme court in Brooklyn, to again explain the elements of the four homicide charges.

The Mondello jury, as well as a separate jury weighing evidence against the accused triggerman in the case, Joseph Fama, retired Wednesday shortly before 8 pm (0000 GMT) without reaching a verdict. Both juries were scheduled to resume deliberations at 10 am (1400 GMT) Thursday. (AP)

Columnist suspended: Veteran columnist Jimmy Breslin, whose hard-hitting writing and pugna personality style reflect the toughness of New York, has been suspended for two weeks for making racial and sexist slurs.

Breslin became the centre of controversy last week when he called reporter Ji-Yeon Yuh, a Korean-American colleague on New York Newsday, a "yellow cur" and "slant-eyed" after she accused him of sexist journalism.

The newspaper took no action at that time, but it suspended Breslin on Tuesday after other journalists complained he had joked about the incident on a radio programme. (Reuter)

Ancient art found: More than \$200,000 in Ecuadorian art was recovered from a Miami attic more than a year after it was stolen and sold for \$400, police said Wednesday after arresting the alleged buyer.

The paintings and sculptures had been shipped by an Ecuadorian bank to Miami for display at an international bankers' convention on Nov 17, 1988, but two drug addicts stole the truck carrying the art when the driver stopped to eat at a Miami restaurant, said police spokesman Armando Villoria. Miami Police Det. J.B. Martinez said the thief had no idea of the value of collection. (AP)

Water levels receding: Water levels were slowly receding in flooded central Arkansas Thursday after cresting at the highest point in 47 years.

The Army Corps of Engineers will take steps to lower river levels in southwestern Arkansas. Mike Gauldin, press secretary to Gov. Bill Clinton, said Thursday.

Heavy rain and flooding along the Trinity, Arkansas and Red Rivers in the past two weeks have claimed 13 lives, one in Oklahoma and the rest in Texas. As the bulk of water has moved downstream to the east and south, the worst of the flooding had shifted from North-Central Texas and Oklahoma to Arkansas and northeastern Texas. Flooding was also affecting parts of northern Louisiana. (AP)

Stopping lava flow: Shopowner Walter Yamaguchi placed three leaves from a local plant in the path of the carpet of orange molten lava flowing from Kilaueta volcano to appease Pele, the volcano goddess. He added a bottle of gin.

Yamaguchi's shop, the Kalapana Store and Drive-In, was spared along with one of two churches in Kalapana, until recently a close community of 300 people on the lush big island of Hawaii.

"I told her to please stop," the 32-year-old Yamaguchi said of the goddess that many Hawaii residents treat with respect, if not worship. "I said Mahalo (Thank You)." (Reuter)

Ozone layer fund: Developing countries criticised the United States on Thursday for opposing new funding for efforts to save the ozone layer and said they could not join anti-pollution plans unless Washington relented.

The United States surprised delegates at UN negotiations on Wednesday by declaring that any money to help poorer nations to switch from ozone-depleting technologies should come from existing World Bank funds.

"The statement by the delegation of the USA... has shocked and deeply dismayed all those present at this meeting as it has nullified all the gains achieved over the last year," said the group of 77 developing countries and China in a joint statement. (Reuter)

Pan Am crash

Settlement

MIAMI, May 11. (Reuter): Pan Am, the airline company, has reached an out-of-court settlement with 250 Scottish families whose relatives were killed or injured in the bombing of flight 103 over a year ago, a Miami lawyer said yesterday.

Both sides agreed to keep details of the settlement secret but Aaron Podhurst, an attorney handling the claims, said he was "satisfied with the outcome."

The settlement involves only casualties and property damage on the ground in the Scottish village of Lockerbie resulting when a terrorist bomb destroyed the plane belonging to Pan American World Airways, a Pan Am subsidiary, in December 1988.

Still pending are the cases arising from the deaths of 259 passengers and crew, Podhurst said.

Eleven people died in the village and scores were hurt in the pre-Christmas disaster. The jetliner's fiery debris also destroyed villagers' property.

A Pan Am spokeswoman confirmed that a settlement had been reached, but said secrecy was part of the agreement. She said reports that Pan Am was not insured against such claims were inaccurate.

hundreds of kilometres (miles) of roads and railways under water. Soviet media reported Friday.

Authorities used helicopters to rescue people from 105 flooded villages, the Communist Party daily Pravda reported. (AP)

Rocard survives crisis: French Prime Minister Michel Rocard's Socialist government survived its most serious parliamentary crisis after communist deputies abstained from a conservative-sponsored no-confidence motion calling for an amnesty for corrupt politicians. (Reuter)

Scanner installed at Gatwick: An airport scanner which uses low energy neutrons to detect explosives in baggage was being installed at London's Gatwick airport Thursday.

The move is part of a world-wide plan by the US Federal Aviation Administration to tighten security following the Lockerbie bombing over Scotland, more than a year and a half ago. (Kuna)

Channel tunnel safety questioned: A labour union leader called Wednesday for radical changes in safety procedures at the Channel tunnel after the sixth death on the British side in 17 months.

The government's health and safety executive halted activity in the undersea project to link Britain and France after William Cartman, 33, was crushed Tuesday by machinery which fixes concrete linings to the tunnel walls. (AP)

Test tube babies die sooner: Test tube babies are three times more likely to die soon after birth than other babies, according to a new report published Friday in London.

The report by the British medical research council said the reason for the high mortality rate among these babies is that many of them are twins, triplets or quadruplets. (Kuna)

5 held in mafia contracts racket: Five Sicilian officials and businessmen have been arrested on charges of mafia association and extortion over building contracts, some of them connected to the World Cup soccer tournament, police said on Thursday.

A further 20 people, including the mayor, former mayor and treasurer of Baucina town council, had been told they were under investigation, police said. (Reuter)

Queen Elizabeth inauguration: Queen Elizabeth II switched on an elephant tracking station at London Zoo on Wednesday and saw on a computer monitor an elephant moving through the Kenyan bush more than 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometres) away.

Tags and antennae fixed to the animals send signals to an Earth satellite which beams the information on their movements to Europe. (AP)

Women bishops: Finland's Evangelical Lutheran church has voted by a narrow margin to allow women to become bishops, a church spokeswoman said on Thursday.

The church's Synod, meeting in the western city of Turku, approved the change on Wednesday by 82 votes to 25, just over the required three-quarters majority. (Reuter)

Cat health: British government scientists were Friday urging Britain's seven million cat owners to keep calm after announcing that a Siamese had become the first pet to die of an illness similar to "Mad Cow" disease.

The five-year-old cat was put down in Bristol, southern England, and extensive tests were being carried out to see if its disease can be transmitted to other animals. (Kuna)

Renamo rebels attacked: Right-wing renegade of the Mozambican National Resistance said Thursday they were engaged in heavy fighting with Mozambican government troops and Zimbabwean forces who attacked the guerrillas' mountain strongholds in central Mozambique.

The rebels, who are also known by the Portuguese acronym Renamo, claimed 1,600 government soldiers and 2,000 Zimbabweans launched an offensive Monday against the guerrillas' headquarters in the Gorongosa mountains, some 860 kilometres (540 miles) north of its capital Maputo.

In a statement distributed in the Portuguese capital and signed by the rebels' Lisbon spokesman Manuel Frank, Renamo said Soviet-led MIG planes were flying bombing raids in support of the attacking troops.

The rebel statement also claimed Renamo forces had killed 17 government troops in a raid Monday in southern Gaza province and five more the same day in northern Tete.

There was no independent confirmation of the rebel claims. (AP)

Nigerian Christians innocent: Nigeria's military rulers said on Thursday they did not hold Christian leaders responsible for any part of an abortive coup attempt on April 27.

Chief of general staff Augustus Aikhombe told Catholic Archbishop Anthony Okogie the government was not harassing either the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) or other religious leaders, an Information Ministry spokesman said.

Newspapers have reported demonstrations in the northern city of Kaduna by Christians demanding the release of two CAN leaders they say are among hundreds of military men and civilians detained by security forces after the coup attempt.

The reports have not been independently confirmed.

The Nigerian Tribune said several hundred women, many carrying Bibles and with infants strapped to their backs, held a peaceful day-long protest on Wednesday in defiance of a ban on demonstrations. (Reuter)

300 years for forgery: What could be worse than being sentenced to 221 years in jail in the West African country of Sierra Leone?

Accountant John Massaquoi found out on Wednesday when a judge sentenced him to a concurrent term of 300 years after he pleaded guilty to a 25-count forgery indictment.

His first sentence was passed last month. As an alternative to the second judgment, Massaquoi was given the option of paying a \$40,000 fine.

Doe offer to surrender: The government will set up a committee to safeguard the rights of rebels who accept a government offer to surrender, President Samuel Doe announced at a news conference Wednesday.

Doe also said the offer would remain in effect indefinitely.

Two weeks ago, the president vowed that rebels who did not surrender by a Wednesday deadline would be killed. But recently, he has come under pressure to open talks with the insurgents. (AP)

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Miss All-Nations Pageant

Participants of the Miss All-Nations Pageant 1990. (L-R) Miss Scotland, Marna Murdoch, Miss Australia, Toni Jean Peters, Miss Sweden.

Martene Quick and Miss Singapore, Celia Teh, pose for photographers after the opening press conference at a hotel in the capital city, Kuala Lumpur, May 10. (Reuter wirephoto)



Train breaks world record

One of France's ultramodern trains (above) broke its own world speed record Wednesday, travelling 510.6 kms (317.3 miles) per hour on a stretch of track in the Loire valley, the National Railroad announced.

The previous record, set last December, was 492.4 kms (299 miles) per hour, breaking a mark held by a West German train. In both instances, the French trains carried no passengers.

The record was set by train No. 325 of France's fleet of "Trains a Grande Vitesse" — high-

speed trains known in France as the TGVs. The normal speed for the trains is about 300 kms (185 miles) per hour along specially constructed track that eliminates the click-click sound of most rail systems.

The speed record was considered of commercial importance as French, West German and Japanese manufacturers compete for contracts for their high-speed trains. The South Korean government is currently reviewing options for a high-speed line between Seoul and Pusan. (Reuter wirephoto)

Everest crossing

Balloon crash

KATHMANDU, May 11. (AP): Two Nepalese army helicopters ferried three Japanese adventurers to Kathmandu today after their balloon crashed in the Himalayas during their attempt to fly over Mount Everest.

Co-pilot Saburo Ichiyoshi, 41, and cameraman Atsushi Saito, 27, survived the high-altitude cold by wrapping themselves in their down jackets and parachutes, said Michio Kanda, the 41-year-old pilot of the balloon who had walked through the mountains in search of help.

Ichiyoshi reportedly shattered his left leg when the balloon crashed and burned Wednesday 5,000 metres (16,400 feet) above sea level. Medical attendants rushed him away on a stretcher after the helicopter he was riding landed in the Nepalese capital.

Colonel BR Pun, who piloted one of the rescue helicopters, said the site where he found Ichiyoshi and Saito was so high it was difficult to fly in.

"I had to take out one person at a time from the accident site," Pun said.

Asia

Oceans monitoring: The Japanese government should conduct a comprehensive monitoring survey of the northwest Pacific Ocean in the 1990s as part of an effort to study what role the oceans play in global warming, according to a report released Thursday.

The ocean development council's recommendation, forwarded to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as part of a report on basic concepts and policies for long-range ocean development, notes that while the oceans are recognised as major players in the theory of global warming, there is still much that is not understood about oceanic systems and a comprehensive survey has therefore become urgent. (Kuna)

Studying flames: In an effort to understand how fuels burn in space, a group of Japanese engineers at the University of Tokyo is studying flames in near-zero gravity.

The group, including Mario Niwa, produces droplets of fuel, 0.5-1 millimetre in diameter, by allowing liquid fuel to slide down a filament. At

the tip of the filament, the drop that forms is ignited, and then allowed to fall off. (Kuna)

Scarcity of nice men: Most single Japanese women think the main reason they have not yet tied the knot is a scarcity of "nice men", a survey published on Friday showed.

The survey of 500 women conducted by the Altman Institute, a Tokyo-based matchmaking agency, found that four out of five did not think they had even seen any nice men recently.

The survey showed a "nice man" was one who was good-looking, intelligent, talkative, honest and highly paid. (Reuter)

Pollard wife bemoans Israel: The wife of convicted American spy Jonathan Pollard said Friday she was sick and destitute and accused the Israeli government of abandoning her.

Pollard, 35, a former US naval analyst, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 for supplying classified US documents to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, was sentenced to two concurrent five-year terms for helping him. She was released six weeks ago.

"I mean, I gave up 40 months of my life to go to prison over this. (The Israeli government) did absolutely nothing for me," Mrs Pollard, 29, said in an interview with Israeli radio. (AP)

Business as usual for Klein: For Yair Klein, an Israeli mercenary sought by Colombia for training cocaine cartel "hit squads" and now implicated in channeling Antigua-bound Israeli arms to Colombia, it is business as usual, reports Wednesday said.

An Israeli expert said those were tiny operations compared to all the "dirty things" the Israeli government has undertaken in the past and seems certain to continue. (Kuna)

Austria refuses to sell: Citing human rights violations in Turkey, the Austrian government has ordered companies not to sell ammunition to Turkey, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Murat Sungar, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said "this unfortunate decision ignores realities, is open to abuse and appears to support terrorism fighting against our national unity." (AP)

4 rebel Kurds killed: Turkish troops have killed four Kurdish rebels in two separate clashes and uncovered a major explosives cache, officials said on Friday.

The rebels of the separatist Marxist Kurdish

Workers' Party (PKK) were killed on Wednesday and Thursday near Sirnak town in the southeastern province of Sirnak, they said. (Reuter)

Sudan facing food shortages: Southern Sudanese regions, where tens of thousands stand to die in previous years, are once again facing "acute" food shortages, a report said Thursday.

The Sudan news agency carried the report by the government's relief and rehabilitation commission in co-operation with the United Nations and Western relief organisations.

The report said that despite the food shortages, there was no threat of famine. But Western relief sources told the Associated Press there was an imminent threat of starvation in the northern parts of Bahr Al-Ghazal region and around Juba, capital of the Equatoria region. (AP)

Won't allow Islamic Party: Senegal, facing a series of mysterious attacks on bars believed by some to be the work of Muslim activists, said on Wednesday it would not allow the formation of an Islamic Party.

"Religion ought not to rule politics just as politics should not rule religion. We shall never question the secularism of the state," Information Minister Moustapha Ka told a news conference. (Reuter)

Ceasefire a must: Somalia: Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Samatar has said his country cannot introduce multi-party politics without a ceasefire between the government and rebels of the Somali National Movement (SNM).

Samatar, greeting Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli at the start of a three-day visit on Wednesday night, said civil war was not in the interest of any political party. (Reuter)

Revival of Alexandria library: A resolution was introduced in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Thursday welcoming plans for Egypt's revival of the Library of Alexandria, one of the ancient world's most influential centres of learning.

The resolution, sponsored by Egypt and 94 other countries, would also express appreciation for the support given by UN agencies and donor countries and invite continued assistance by the international community. (Reuter)

Latin America

Mello tackles: President Fernando Collor de Mello's draconian plan to beat inflation and make Brazil's economy more efficient is entering its most difficult phase as it tries to cut back the public sector.

Collor on Wednesday ordered his cabinet to start laying off up to 400,000 of the government's 1.6 million employees.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello has said that details about privatising state-run companies, the other key to Brazil reducing its public sector, will be announced in a week. (Reuter)

Violated laws: Both sides in the US invasion of Panama killed and injured civilians by violating the 1949 Geneva Conventions governing warfare, the Americas Watch human rights monitoring group said in a report issued on Thursday.

Calling the conventions "a prodigious achievement of humanity," the group said it had compiled itself to examining the conduct of the conflict under the international laws of war and had not judged the legality of the December 1989 invasion. (Reuter)

US blamed for deaths: The US military's failure to issue a warning before attacking a Panamanian military headquarters last December may have resulted in the deaths of dozens of civilians living in the area, a report said Wednesday.

The allegation was contained in a report contending that both the US and Panamanian military violated international humanitarian law governing armed conflict. (AP)

"Lord of life and death" trial: Former Argentine General Guillermo Suarez Mason — known as the "lord of life and death" — has been ordered to stand trial in August, charged with killing 39 political prisoners in the 1970s, an official said on Thursday.

"As far as we are concerned the trial should only last a couple of days because of the overwhelming evidence against him," district attorney Luis Moreno Ocampo told Reuters. (Reuter)

Amazon Indians seek: Amazon Indians asked ecologists from around the world on Thursday to back native people's demands for control over the lands where they and their ancestors have lived for centuries.

The Indians, meeting ecologists in Iquitos, Peru, said they were tired of government mismanagement of their jungle lands and wanted autonomy over them. (Reuter)

Miami Cubans plan flotilla: Leaders of Miami's staunchly anti-Castro Cuban community announced plans on Thursday to launch a peaceful flotilla, towards Havana on

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US wholesale prices fell in April

WASHINGTON, May 11. (Reuters). Producer prices and retail sales fell in April, the US government reported today, pointing to a weaker-than-expected economy and sending interest rates sharply lower on the US credit market.

In a sign that the recent surge in inflation may be abating, wholesale prices fell for the second month in a row as the producer price index dropped an unexpected 0.3 per cent in April, the Labour Department said.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department said retail sales fell for a second straight month in April, dropping an unexpected 0.6 per cent in the sharpest monthly tumble since a 1.4 per cent decline last October.

Economists, who had expected an upturn in inflation and retail sales, quickly reassessed their views of a steadily growing economy and began talking about a greater chance for a recession.

"It could be that we are seeing the start of a modest turnaround in the economy," said Hugh Johnson of First Albany Corp.

Bond prices soared as credit market interest rates fell. The benchmark 30-year bond climbed 1-1/3 point to 100-18/32, lowering its yield to 8.70 per cent from 8.84 per cent yesterday. The dollar was down sharply against the Japanese yen, falling to 153.15 from 156.60, but was mixed against other currencies.

Egypt, IMF pact on debt nearer

CAIRO, May 11. (Reuters). Egypt appears on the brink of sealing an agreement with the International Monetary Fund that would halve an economy reeling under \$50 billion of debt but bring further hardship to the man in the street.

Egyptian and IMF teams over the last few days have been holding their latest round of talks in Washington. President Hosni Mubarak told reporters that 18 months of negotiation had yielded agreement.

"It is fair to say they are nearer than they have been," said one Western diplomat. "Presumably they will need at least one more round."

In addition to giving Egypt badly-needed IMF standby credit, an agreement is likely to release new credits from Western aid donors and allow Cairo to go to the Paris Club of creditor nations to reschedule about a tenth of its foreign debts.

Egypt desperately needs cash to finance imports of wheat, stocks of which have fallen to dangerously low levels.

A key IMF demand has been that Egypt take measures to reduce its massive budget deficit, and diplomats say an accord is likely to bring further painful doses of austerity medicine above and beyond last week's increases of up to 130 per cent in the prices of subsidised food, petrol and cooking gas.

Similar increases in 1977 led to bloody riots and forced a fast rollback.

Opec plays it well on price

Slide under weight of glut

LONDON, May 11. (Agencies). If Opec leaders played poker they would be dangerous men to meet. Just a month ago on April 11, New York oil futures sank to \$16.25 per barrel, down 25 per cent since January and the lowest in more than a year. They looked ready to extend the slide under the weight of a new world glut.

The glut persists. But benchmark US prices are back up around \$19. Much of the rally can be attributed to the skill of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in persuading traders that they might have been wrong to be widely sceptical about its ability to cut excess crude oil production.

"Opec was playing a poor deck and it played it well," said Nauman Barakat, a vice-president with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

South Yemen dinar devalued

BAHRAIN, May 11. (Reuters). South Yemen devalued its dinar by 24 per cent on Thursday and Gulf-based bankers said this effectively merged it with North Yemen's rial, taking the two countries closer to a common currency.

Central Bank officials in Aden told Reuters the new exchange rate would be fixed at 0.461 dinars to the US dollar compared with the previous rate of 0.350.

North and South Yemen, which are on the verge of uniting, last week set a parity of 26 riyals to the dinar and declared their currencies legal tender in either state.

The official exchange rate for the North Yemen currency is 12 riyals to the dollar following a February devaluation.

Bankers said the South Yemeni devaluation brought the dinar, which was overpriced, back into line with the rial and made the two currencies compatible.

"Essentially, they have merged their currencies, at least with respect to the outside world," one Gulf-based banker said.

"If they can maintain their exchange rates with respect to the dollar, they have achieved their goal to all practical purposes — it's as if they have a common currency with the same purchasing power," he said.

North Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul-Karim Al Iryani told Reuters last week that after setting parity between the two currencies, North and South Yemen would choose one of the two for government salaries and transactions.

It would become the main currency until eventually a new currency was established for the two countries, which are due to unite by the end of May, six months ahead of schedule.

The central banks of both countries are also due to merge over a 2-1/2 year transition period for the new state.

Bankers said the rial, which is traded to a limited extent outside North Yemen, would probably become the main currency.

The devaluation would have little impact on the dinar itself because like most tightly-restricted socialist currencies, it was not convertible on international markets, they said.

South Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, has recently moved to liberalise its previously Marxist-oriented economy to prepare for the merger with its pro-Western neighbour.

North Yemen devalued its rial by 23 per cent in February to encourage the flow of remittances from Yemenis working abroad and narrow a widening gap between its black market and official exchange rate, which had reached 25 per cent.

Economists said the two rates was "too little too late." The differential between the two rates is now about 15 per cent.

Bankers said if the United Yemen wanted to establish a new currency convertible on the free market, it would have to devalue further to bring it closer to the black market rate.

Foreign Minister Iryani said a more liberal investment law being prepared in the North would also apply to South Yemen after the merger. The country has already liberalised its economic and political institutions to prepare for the step.

No plan for Saudi bourse

RIYADH, May 11. (AP). The deputy governor of the Saudi Monetary Agency said yesterday that there was a "misunderstanding" and that the kingdom had no plans to open a regular stock exchange.

In a statement distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, the Sama official Ahmed Al Malik said that the misunderstanding arose when he was elaborating to reporters on introduction of computerised technology for bank dealings in stocks and shares.

"The report about the stock exchange is not true at all, and there is no trend to open a stock exchange in the kingdom," he said in the statement. "I want to correct the misunderstanding."

Ongoing trade row with US India rejects talks

NEW DELHI, May 11. (UPI). India yesterday reiterated that it will not hold talks with the United States to solve the ongoing trade row as long as Washington threatens New Delhi with trade retaliation under a provision of a trade law called the "Super 301."

Commerce Minister Arun Nehru told members in the upper house of parliament that efforts would be made to build up international opinion against the "manifestly unfair" action taken by the United States.

The minister made the statement after MC Bhandare, an opposition Congress (I) Party member, referred to the US government decision on April 27 to retain India on a list of unfair trading partners under US trade law known as "Super 301."

The US administration removed Japan and Brazil from the list, making only India liable for retaliation.

In retaining India on the Super 301 list, Washington cited New Delhi's policies of restricting foreign investment and barring foreign insurance companies

from operating in India. Members of Parliament in a rare display of unity have in the past one week, vehemently criticised Washington for its decision to retaliate India.

"Since the US government has not actually imposed any measure affecting India's exports, the matter is not yet ripe for taking recourse to the dispute settlement machinery of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs," the minister told members yesterday.

"We have a deep commitment to the multilateral process and we shall continue to strive for the success of the multilateral trade negotiations aimed at the growth of all countries... we expect that the United States will display a similar commitment," Nehru said in the upper house.

"What the US seeks is that we remove all controls on private sector investment and change our insurance laws to allow access to foreign firms," the minister said and added, "The United States wants us to enter into negotiations in order to change our regimes. Failing this

it threatens us with punitive measures."

"We will not relent on our stand," said Nehru.

Trade ties between the world's two largest democracies have blossomed over the past five years, with two-way commerce crossing the \$6 billion mark in fiscal 1989-90. India is estimated to have run up a trade surplus of more than \$800 million.

The United States in mid-1989 cited Japan, Brazil and India as unfair trading partners under Super 301.

The provision called for negotiations to be held with the named countries over a period of one year under threat of retaliation by Washington if no progress was made.

Washington in April announced that Brazil had opened up its economy to the satisfaction of the United States and that Japan had begun talks that proceeded satisfactorily, but that India had refused to talk.

Bush removed Japan and Brazil from the list, leaving India the sole country on the list.

British annual rate of inflation high at 9.4pc in April

LONDON, May 11. (Reuters). Britain's annual rate of inflation jumped sharply to 9.4 per cent in April, its highest level for eight years, the government said today.

It blamed the rise from 8.1 per cent the previous month on increased duties on petrol, tobacco and alcohol in the March budget and the introduction of a new tax on all adults to

finance local government.

The increase, although a blow to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's increasingly unpopular government, was less severe than some economists had predicted.

They feared the rate, which last reached 9.4 per cent in April 1982, would hit 10 per cent.

Share prices peaked immediately after the 11.30 am (1030 GMT) release of the inflation figures, but dropped soon after.

Dealers said they expect the market to drift at current levels through the rest of the trading day, saying the inflation figures weren't good enough to sustain the initial markups.

Saudi contracts in June Expansion plan

DUBAI, May 11. (Reuters). Saudi Arabia will soon start a multi-billion dollar oil production capacity expansion programme aimed at keeping the kingdom the world's biggest oil exporter in the next century, industry sources said yesterday.

The Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) is expected to award contracts in June for oilfield facilities and equipment upgrading which will push its sustainable output to around 10 million barrels per day (bpd) in the next 10 years from the current average of 6.5 to 6.8 million bpd.

"The plans at Saudi Aramco are very fluid, they have an outline and an aim, but details are reviewed and modified every six months to accommodate changing market conditions," one oil industry analyst in the kingdom said.

The cost of the project is estimated to be somewhere between \$12 billion and \$15 billion.

Financial analysts believe the kingdom will have no difficulty in financing the project on its own, as it would be spread over a number of years and implemented in various stages.

The expansion project would return Saudi production capacity to its 1980 level. Most of the capacity rise in the fields as world oil demand plummeted after prices hit \$40.

Dollar falls against yen

Gold driven sharply lower

LONDON, May 11. (AP). The dollar continued its slide against the Japanese yen in European trading this morning, but gained ground from Thursday's close. Later in London, it was quoted at 153.99 yen.

Spot gold prices were driven sharply lower under the pressure of Japanese selling.

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 154.15 yen, down 2.60 yen from Thursday's close. Later in London, it was quoted at 153.99 yen.

Other dollar rates in Europe, compared with late yesterday:

- 1.6342 West German marks, down from 1.6368.
- 1.3995 Swiss francs, up from 1.3950.
- 5.5285 French francs, up from 5.5235.
- 1.6410 Dutch guilders, up from 1.6407.
- 1.206.00 Italian lire, up from 1.205.75.
- 1.1770 Canadian dollars, up from 1.1650.

The British pound fell to \$1.6728 from \$1.6770 late Thursday.

Some market players remained on the sidelines awaiting the US government's release later today on the US producer price index and retail sales figures. Concern that the US economy is slowing also helped push the dollar lower, dealers said.

Dealers said an overnight decline in the dollar's value against the Swiss franc and West German mark pushed it below technical floor, resulting in widespread dollar selling.

The franc has been rising because of high Swiss interest rates, strong Asian demand and the increasing tendency to view the franc as a "safe haven" currency, dealers said.

Japan's major securities houses sold the dollar heavily in the morning. After lunch, they were joined by life insurers and other major market players, said John Radinoff, vice-president of Goldman Sachs (Japan).

"The yen has been massively oversold, and people have been looking for excuses to sell dollars," Radinoff said.

"Over the next couple of days there will be some serious thinking going on over whether this is the start of a new trend or whether the dollar is just testing to find a new base," said Mahesh Trivedi, senior corporate dealer at Daiwa (Europe) Bank Ltd.

"We could be just near the beginning of a sharp rise in the yen," said Mark Auvin, currency analyst at Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. in London.

Spot gold prices in London dropped as low as \$367.50 an ounce in London this morning, off from \$371.35 an ounce late Thursday.

In Zurich, gold opened at \$368.75 an ounce at 1000 GMT, down from \$371.25 bid late Thursday.

In Hong Kong, gold dropped \$3.12 an ounce today, to close at \$369.10.

Silver bullion rose in London to a late bid price of \$5.06 a troy ounce, down from \$5.08 bid late Thursday.

At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 4.998 Swiss francs, as against the closing rate Thursday of 4.895, the Swiss-Kuwaiti Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.6188 (5.6387), the pound sterling 2.0485 (2.0525), Japanese yen 337.2604 (339.4885), and the US dollar 3.4328 (3.4317).

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CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Subscription in Treasury Bills
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION, distributed over the following denominations:

KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000

in compliance with the Rules and Regulations mentioned below:

- | Description | Issue No. (118) | Issue No. (119) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Amount of Issue: | KD 30 million | KD 100 million |
| Issue Date : | Wednesday 16/5/1990 | 16/ 5/1990 |
| Due Date : | Wednesday 15/8/1990 | 14/11/1990 |
| Offering Period: | From : Saturday 12/5/1990 | 12/ 5/1990 |
| | To : Tuesday 15/5/1990 | 15/ 5/1990 |
| Allotment: | Wednesday 16/5/1990 | 16/ 5/1990 |
- Delivery of Bills: After one week following the date of submitting the application.
- The Provisions of these Issues shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

Battle for stake in DHL company

NEW YORK, May 11. (Kuna): A proposed majority investment in US-owned DHL worldwide express by foreign investors is setting the stage for a battle of the lucrative international airfreight market.

Three companies — Lufthansa German Airlines, Japan Air Lines and Nissho Iwai Corp., a leading Japanese trading company — have confirmed they are negotiating to acquire a stake in DHL, considered the world's largest international delivery company.

Industry analysts say such a combination would increase the pressure on DHL's competitors, Federal Express Co. of Memphis, Tennessee, and United Parcel Service (UPS) of Greenwich, Connecticut, to expand their operations overseas.

Although officials of the three companies confirmed they are negotiating a stake in DHL, they declined to elaborate.

People familiar with the negotiations, said, however, a deal was imminent and could result in a 60 per cent stake by outsiders. The three companies' initial investment would amount to about \$500 million, according to reports.

Founded in 1969 by three American businessmen, DHL created the express door-to-door delivery business. DHL currently serves 184 countries, while Federal Express operates in 127.

The international market is growing by an estimated 28 per cent a year and changing. Most of the expansion is coming in Asia, where express delivery remains underdeveloped, and in Europe.

It is the saturated US market that has prompted Federal Express and UPS to look overseas. Both companies have invested heavily in building international operations to offset slower growth in domestic markets.

In 1988, Federal Express agreed to pay \$800 million for Tiger International Inc., then the world's largest air-cargo carrier. But Federal Express reportedly is still losing money on its overseas business.

Top business panel sees no US recession

HOT SPRINGS, Virginia, May 11. (Reuters): The US economy should continue to expand at a modest pace this year with little chance of slipping into a recession, according to a report made public today by the business council.

"There is remarkable unanimity," J.P. Morgan and Company chairman Lewis Preston told reporters in releasing the report by an advisory panel of 19 economists.

"Not a single one is forecasting a recession," he added.

The council is made up of 100 chief

executives of some of the nation's biggest companies and banks. They gather twice a year for closed-door meetings with government officials and one another at the home, a resort in the lush green Allegheny mountains in Virginia.

The panel predicts the economy will grow at about two per cent for the first half of the year and by a bit more in the second half. It may pick up speed in 1991, hitting an average 2.6 per cent late next year.

Gross national product, the broadest measure of economic activity, expanded by a

sluggish 1.1 per cent in the last quarter of 1989.

The economists said about three-quarters of the growth this year and next would be fuelled by consumer spending. They think the Federal Reserve Board should avoid raising interest rates to keep inflation in check.

The consumer price index surged 8.1 per cent in the first three months of 1990, but the economists expected inflation to cool considerably and rise by only 3.3 per cent this quarter.

"They don't see enough vigour in the economy to justify tightening credit," Preston said.

The Morgan Guaranty chairman said he took a less rosy view than the council's experts. "I'm not as sanguine as our economists," he said.

"When you get 19 economists to agree that growth will be two per cent, there is one thing I can guarantee you, it won't be two per cent," he said.

But other top executives seemed satisfied with the way their businesses were doing.

"Things are pretty good," said General Electric chairman John Welch after tallying overseas sales.

General Motors chairman Roger Smith said rebates and low interest loans had helped car and truck sales. Sales are running at an annual rate of 14.5 million to 14.8 million vehicles.

"It's surprising," Smith said. "Any time it's up in that range, it's pretty good. It portends to be a pretty good year. But the downside is the rebates and the interest rates" because they eat into profits.

Procter and Gamble chairman John Smale said "our business is strong" helped by overseas markets that had picked up and the wide variety of consumer products his company sells.

But not all the talk at the start of the three-day meeting was upbeat.

Aside from concern about the federal budget and trade deficits, bankers grumbled about weakness in the real-estate market.

"Real estate is pretty weak," said Citicorp chairman John Reed. "I don't think they have found a bottom yet."

Washington denies Sununu comments

Tax hikes at upcoming budget summit

WASHINGTON, May 11. (AP): The White House yesterday disavowed comments by a senior official ruling out tax hikes at the upcoming budget summit and said President George Bush assured Congress nothing was off the bargaining table.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the remarks, widely understood to be those of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, did not reflect Bush's position and that the official did not speak for the President.

The official was quoted as saying that the White House would say "no" to any tax increases proposed by Democrats at the upcoming

budget summit.

"That's crazy," declared Fitzwater.

Fitzwater said Bush called House Speaker Thomas Foley yesterday morning to assure him he had not changed his position.

Meanwhile, Bush came under fire from congressional Democrats for failing to make his position clear on the issue of higher taxes.

"It is time for the President to speak," said Rep. Robert Torricelli.

"What is it that he would bring forward? The President waits, but the nation deserves to hear."

Drive to restore credibility

US carmakers launch campaign

DETROIT, May 11. (Reuters): The once mighty US car industry is waging a campaign to restore its reputation, heavily battered by competition from abroad.

In recent weeks, General Motors (GM) and Chrysler Corp., the nation's number one and number three car makers respectively, have fired aggressive publicity salvos to improve the image of their vehicles.

Industry analysts said the companies were alarmed about a widespread perception, especially among young car buyers, that American models were inferior to imported ones, particularly those from Japan.

There is reason for concern. According to AMCI, an auto consultancy in Warren, Michigan, 75 per cent of people aged under 45 who bought a new car last year chose an imported model.

In some places, public esteem fell so low that companies had to beg consumers to consider their cars.

The GM and Chrysler campaigns take different approaches, but make the same basic appeal — give our cars the same consideration as imports and you might be pleasantly surprised.

Ford Motor Co. — number two — has been stressing the quality of its products for nearly a decade with its "quality is job one" slogan. But its approach has been more indirect and subtle than the overt efforts of its rivals.

Ford aside, companies have been slow to learn the value of a quality image, perhaps too slow as foreign competitors

have raced ahead. Japanese cars, once a tiny presence in the United States, now command more than a quarter of the US market and are headed higher at the expense of the American firms.

"Way too late in the game they've come to realise the reality of the situation," said Jim Wangers, an AMCI analyst.

That reality has humbled Detroit, regarded as the traditional home of the US car industry, in startling ways. Just recently General Motors, considered by many to be too proud and insular to acknowledge its problems, tacitly admitted some of its early 1980s cars might not have been as good as they could have been.

In one television advert, part of a \$40 million "putting quality on the road" campaign, a company worker says: "GM cars have a whole new standard of dependability and trouble-free performance," implying that previous cars had a lower standard.

"We realise we aren't there 100 per cent," a GM spokesman said of the company's quality goals.

Chrysler has also hit the driveways and news pages with the campaign "advantage Chrysler."

In its adverts, chairman Lee Iacocca decries America's "inferiority complex" about its own products, and demands that consumers give Chrysler cars a second look, insisting they are as good as or better than the competition.

Although administration aides have asserted that negotiations to get under way next Tuesday would have "no preconditions," Bush himself has not yet spoken out on whether he will accept a tax increase as part of a deficit-cutting package.

Democratic scepticism toward the summit appeared to grow after a "senior administration official" was quoted in yesterday's editions of the Washington Post as suggesting the White House would reject any attempt by Democrats to propose a tax increase.

The official was identified as speaking on a plane from Costa Rica to Washington with Barbara Bush and White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. The official was further described as "the main White House link to Conservatives."

Sununu, who is generally viewed as Conservatives' main conduit into the White House, was on the plane.

Other passengers on the plane said that Sununu was the speaker.

The official was quoted as saying: "We're allowing them (Democrats) to bring their good arguments for taxes to the table."

They were not persuasive last time and are likely not to be persuasive again.

"But if they want to come to the table and say they put (tax increases) there, it is their prerogative to put them on the table, and it's our prerogative to say no. And I emphasise the no."

The comments appeared to contradict earlier White House assertions that no issue would be excluded from the negotiations, including taxes.

Fitzwater, while not willing to state publicly that the speaker was Sununu, said that the official was not speaking for the President.

"I speak for the President. It's as simple as that," he declared.

Rep. Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat, said that whether the remarks on the plane were by "John Sununu or someone else, we have a message to the whole White House ... don't worry — Democrats will not put taxes on the table."

"After all, it was the White House that called the summit, the President that called the summit. It's up to the President to tell us, one, what the crisis is and number two, what he intends to do about it," Schumer added.

Many Democrats have voiced suspicion that Bush's call for a budget summit was a trap to draw them into supporting an election-year tax increase.

White House officials say that without action the federal deficit could be up to \$100 billion higher than the \$64 billion shortfall allowed by law.

For the fourth time in less than a decade, the White House and congressional leaders plan an extraordinary effort to put the US government's financial house in order. If past experience is any guide, results will be short of spectacular.

Bush and legislators, in an attempt to slash the soaring federal budget deficit, pledged on Wednesday to take "severe action" that could conceivably include higher taxes.

6000 jobs axed in UK

More than 6,000 jobs will be lost in streamlining plans announced on Thursday by telephone group British Telecom and Britain's biggest cigarette maker, Imperial Tobacco.

British Telecom, privatised in 1984 by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said up to 5,000 people, mainly middle managers, would leave the company voluntarily in the next year.

The cuts at British Telecom, which has 40,000 managers, were part of a restructuring announced earlier this year, it said. (Reuters)

Unemployment surges in Berlin: The number of jobs lost by East Germans nearly doubled last month compared with March, officials said Wednesday, as the nation braces for massive unemployment during the coming unification with West Germany.

Economic experts in both countries say the union of the two countries' economies will put tens of thousands of East Germans out of work, since dozens of outdated and inefficient East German companies there will fold. (AP)

Israeli trade deficit: Israel's trade deficit rose to billion in the first four months of 1990 from \$780 million in the same period of 1989, the Central Bureau of Statistics said.

The steep rise in the deficit announced on Wednesday reversed steady improvement during 1989, when the annual deficit fell to \$3.7 billion from \$5.2 billion in 1988. (Reuters)

Probe on Israeli bankers: Israel's Supreme Court Thursday ordered the state attorney general to reopen a probe of whether criminal charges should be lodged against the nation's leading banks and former directors for a stock market crash in 1983.

The ruling threatens to shake up Israel's banking system, which is already burdened by double-digit inflation and economic recession.

Up to 26 banks, directors and accountants could be put on trial for violating state banking regulations, the national firm news agency reported. (AP)

Soviet bid to raise hard cash: Gold traders said on Thursday that the Soviet Union has stepped up gold sales in what could be a bid to raise hard cash to buy foreign grain and settle debt owed by Soviet companies to overseas suppliers.

An official at the Zurich office of the Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs declined to confirm or deny the reported sales. (Reuters)

World Bank may lend: The World Bank said on Thursday it might consider more than \$7 billion over the next three years to the new democracies of Eastern Europe and voiced concern commercial banks were reluctant to lend to some states.

Willi Wapenhans, a senior World Bank executive in charge of Eastern Europe, said the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank's decision five weeks ago to suspend principal repayments to banks was unlikely to encourage their lending to the region.

"In many instances in Eastern Europe we will see a great deal of reluctance on the part of commercial banks," Wapenhans told journalists at a World Bank seminar on the region. (Reuters)

Soviet talks: A joint committee of Soviet and European Economic Community officials met for the first time Thursday and was hailed as a "promising start."

The group opened what Frans Andriessen, the foreign affairs commissioner for the EEC, called a "frank and honest" discussion on trade, professional training, joint ventures, private investment, and co-operation in transport, the environment and nuclear energy. (AP)

Kodak finance improves: Eastman Kodak Co., the world's largest maker of photographic products, said on Wednesday it saw an improved financial picture for the rest of the year partly because of opportunities in Eastern Europe.

"As 1990 unfolds and our gains from restructuring take hold, we look forward to higher sales, better earnings and improved cash flows especially in the latter part of the year," Eastman Kodak chairman Colby Chandler told shareholders at the annual meeting.

The giant photographic company showed a 62 per cent drop in profits last year.

Photographic products group vice president William Fowble said he expects electronic imaging products and systems will provide new earnings opportunities. (Reuters)

Soviets delay payments: Japanese traders said on Thursday that Soviet enterprises had delayed payments worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Pickens battle to assert ownership

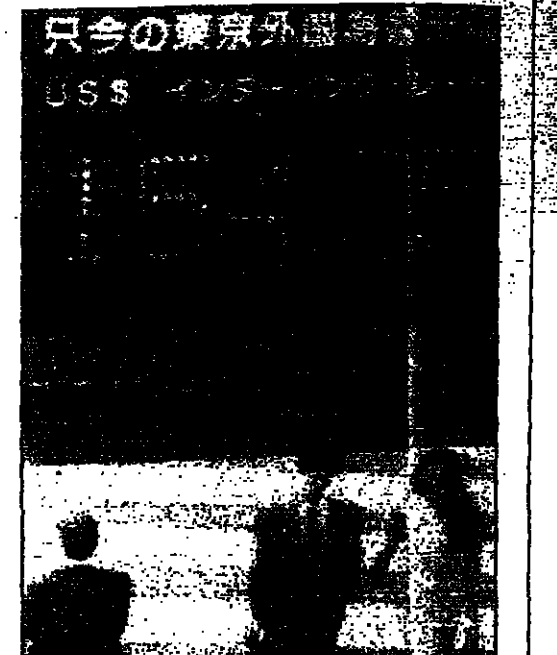
Toyota denies blocking ads

TOKYO, May 11. (AP): Toyota Motor Corp. denied today that it was trying to block an ad campaign by Texas corporate raider T. Boone Pickens from placing ads in local newspapers in his battle to assert ownership rights in a Japanese company.

But several of Tokyo's largest newspapers said they had held up the ads and were considering publishing a version that omits Toyota's name.

"There's no freedom of speech in Japan," said Pickens' lawyer, Kanji Ishizumi. "Toyota published an ad in a US paper saying 'shut up' to Pickens. They were able to enjoy freedom of speech in the United States but Pickens can't do that here."

Pickens issued a statement Wednesday in Texas claiming Toyota and



Dollar drops

Businessmen and women walk under an exchange quotation board showing the 154.75 yen-to-dollar rate outside the Bank of Tokyo yesterday. The dollar dropped sharply against the Japanese currency, down 2.60 yen, after rumours that Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping had died triggered a sell-off of US currency, according to dealers. China denied reports of Deng's death. (Reuters wirephoto)

Banking Ethiopia lifts ban

ADDISABABA, May 11. (Reuters): Ethiopia has lifted a 13-year ban on private banking as part of moves to liberalise its state-controlled economy.

Details of new regulations in trade, industry and agriculture released yesterday said private banking would be allowed but would require permission from the authorities.

Investment in the provision of electric light and power, processing of tobacco, banking and insurance and the supply of potable water activities shall require the prior authorisation of the Council of Ministers, a government decree said.

All private banks were nationalised after the revolution which brought President Mengistu Haile Mariam to power.

Mengistu announced in March that Ethiopia was abandoning Soviet-style socialism in favour of a mixed economy and would encourage local and foreign investment.

They said the delays started at the end of last year. They said they were confident the bills would be passed and added that the problem had not reached a crisis.

An official dealing with Soviet trade, at a major trading company estimated payments to Japanese companies over three months overdue at more than \$500 million. (Reuters)

Menem seeks debt write-offs: President Carlos Menem said on Thursday that Argentina wants foreign creditors to write off part of its \$60-billion debt and provide \$1.5 billion in new loans.

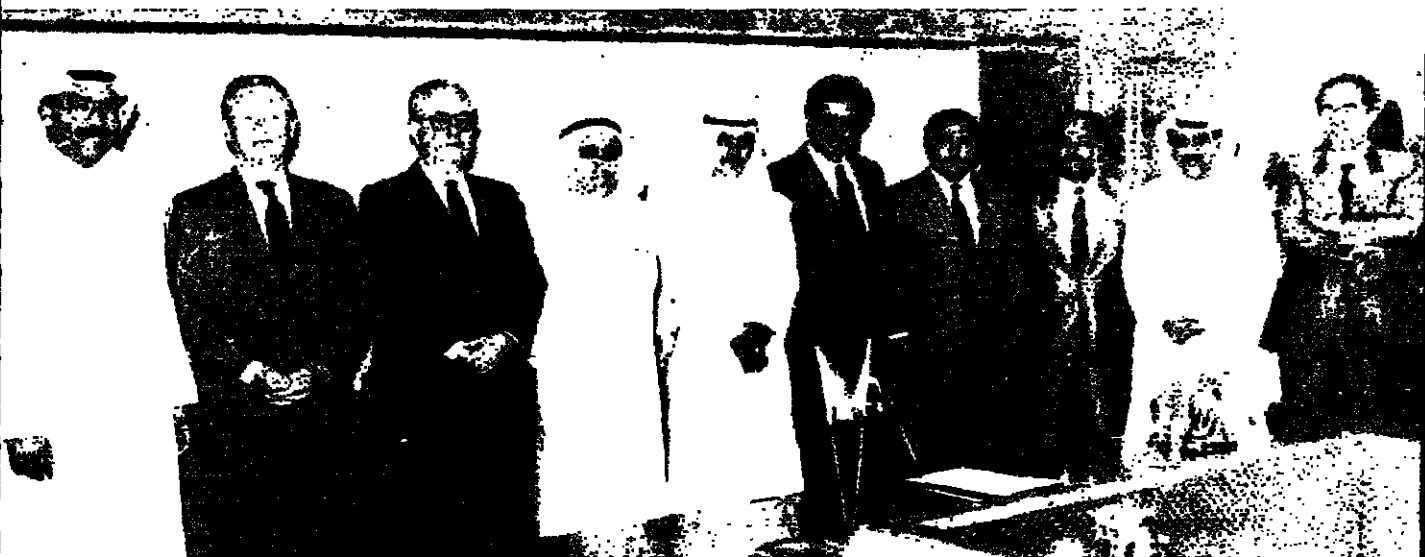
"The government wants to restore normal relations with public and private international credit organisations...and this should translate into granting assistance of \$1.5 billion he told a conference on Latin American politics. (Reuters)

Airbus to sell Iraq planes: Airbus Industrie said it is in negotiations to sell aircraft to Iraq. But a spokeswoman for the European consortium on Wednesday declined to comment further on a report that Iraqi Airways has decided to buy five planes for about \$500 million. (Reuters)

Keppel shipyard wins contract: Keppel Shipyard said Thursday it has won a 40 million Singapore dollar (\$21.5 million) contract to repair and refurbish the tanker Happy Giant, which was damaged during the Iran-Iraq war.

ALAHLI BANK MANAGES AND ARRANGES FINANCE OF SABIYA POWER PLANT PROJECT

"Civil, constructional and complementary works"



FROM LEFT: MESSRS. SERAJ AL BAKER, HENDRIK KWANT, GUNER OZTEK, ABDUL SALAM AL AWADI, ABDULLA AL-GHARABALLY, ALI BOZKURT, MURISIT COLAC, HASAN COLAC, AHMAD ABDUL QADER AND ERNIN ARIOLU.

On 8th May, 1990 Mr. Abdul Salam Abdullah Al Awadi, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director, Alahli Bank of Kuwait received the Visiting Chairman and Senior Executives of the Turkish Joint Venture companies, Messrs BMB Birlesmis Muhendisler Burosu A.S., Soylek Elektrik Santralari Tesis Isletme Ve Ticaret A.S., Yapi Merkezi Insaat Ve Sanayi A.S., Soylet Yapi Ve Endustri Tesisleri Sanayi A.S. and Ali Riza Bozkurt.

Also attending were His Excellency The Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait, Mr. Guner Oztek, Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Company (KFTCIC) as well as principals of the Turkish Joint Venture agent in Kuwait, Messrs. Abdullah Sayid Hashim Al Gharabally Co.

Alahli Bank of Kuwait recently arranged a KD66.5 Million Multiple Contracting Facility for the Turkish Joint Venture in connection with the Civil Work for Al Sabiya Power Station. KFTCIC participated in the required performance bond and advance payment guarantee portion of the facilities.

The Turkish Joint Venture was the lowest bidder for the Civil Work of the Al Sabiya Power Station Project. The total amount of the contract is KD105 Million.

Fall in land prices could cause Tokyo financial strains

TOKYO, May 11. (AP): Japan, with some of the most expensive real estate in the world, could suffer economic problems if land prices fall as history indicates they might, the Bank of Japan said.

"Experiences abroad suggest that it is important to forestall any turbulence which might arise from a sudden change in land prices, in order to maintain a safe and sound financial system," The Central Bank said in a report.

Land prices in Tokyo jumped 23.8 per cent in 1987 and 65.3 per cent in 1988 before the increase slowed to less than 2 per cent last year, the national land agency said.

Nationwide, land prices soared 17 per cent in 1989 after a 21.7 rise in 1988 as speculative inflation spread to other Japanese cities.

The most expensive commercial property in the world, in central Tokyo's marunouchi and Ginza business districts, was valued at \$1.7 million per square metre (\$23,700 US a square foot), the agency said.

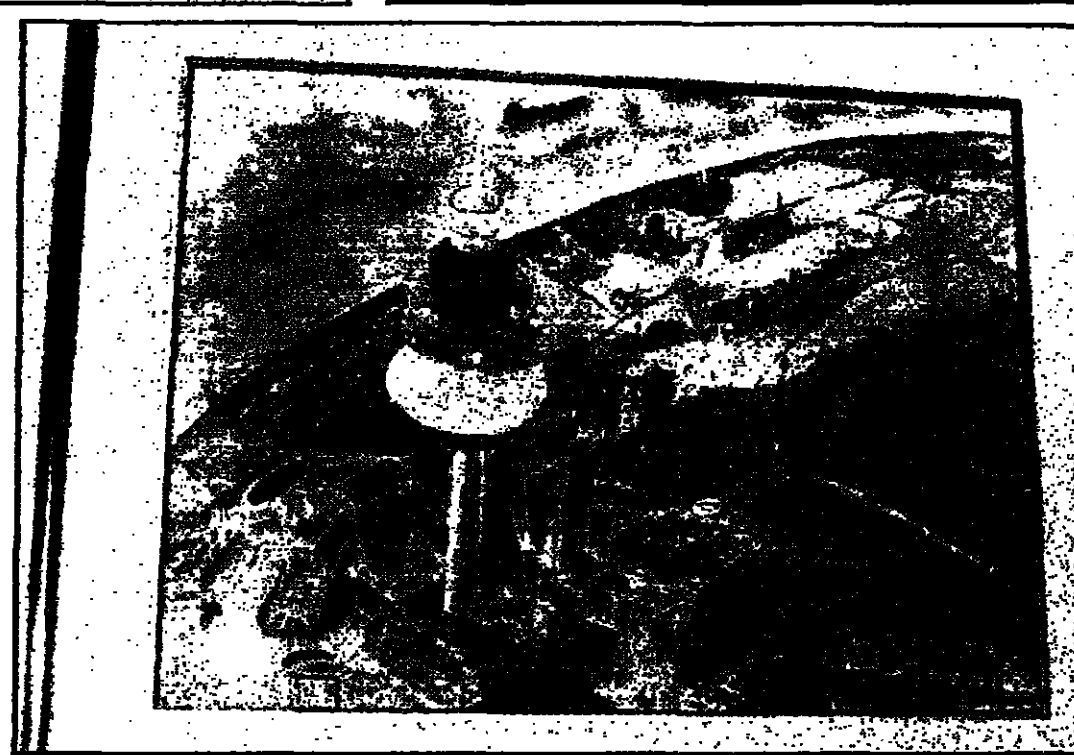
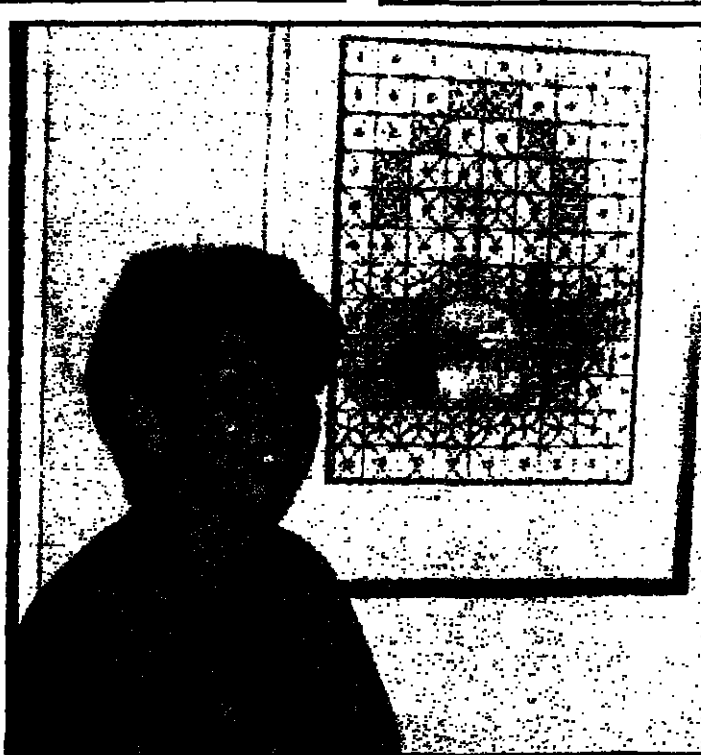
The Bank of Japan said history shows that it is wrong to assume land prices will keep climbing and never decline. This assumption among corporate and individual investors is driving economic decisions and poses a risk to the economy, it said.

The bank called for legal and tax reforms to end incentives for property speculation and encourage more efficient land use. Meanwhile, it said, financial institutions should be monitored closely to ensure that a drop in land prices doesn't undermine the value of the currency.

The security of land is one basic factor behind the high prices.

"But more fundamentally, institutional factors such as the tax and legal systems seem to work to push up land prices by inhibiting the more efficient utilisation of land," the Bank of Japan said.

EVENTS



Around the World

A painting exhibition titled, *Around the World*, is currently being held in Kuwait International Hotel until May 16, by Mrs Luz Marina Colwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will now subjects from different countries as well as special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, desertscapes, landscapes and Islamic designs.

Colwell, came to Kuwait with her husband and three children in 1987. During the last twenty years, she has travelled extensively throughout North and South America, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands, Europe, New Zealand and Africa. During those years she has dedicated much of her time to experimenting with different artistic techniques while observing and studying the cultures of different countries in which she

finds a rich source of inspiration to create her work.

Colwell began studying art at the Instituto de Bellas Artes in Colombia, and has continued learning her craft with private professors in Europe, New Zealand, Cuba and Kenya.

The exhibition *Around the World* will show subjects from the different countries she has lived in as well as a special section of Kuwait.

Other exhibits she held are: 1979: Solo in New Zealand, American Cultural Centre. 1981: Private exhibition in Mexico. 1987: Solo in Nairobi, Kenya. French Cultural Centre. 1987: Nairobi Art Festival National Museum. 1988: Kuwait Silk Painting Spring Fashion Show Cameo. 1989: Kuwait Redesigning the Bishit and Dharrah — Silk Painting Cameo.



Mozart and company invite you to be their guest for the evening.

Watch the balloon soar!

The week-long Austrian Festival at Kuwait International Hotel which started May 10, presents a unique and exciting aspect — a hot air balloon! It will burst into brilliant colours as it is unfurled and hoisted on May 12 and 13 at 8:00 and 8:00pm. Spectators are welcome to witness this unique event. Another interesting feature is the demonstration of making the traditional apple strudel. An expert from Austria will exhibit his skills in La Patisserie every afternoon from May 10 onwards.

To top it all — even Mozart has arrived to grace the occasion! He will personally welcome guests each evening to the Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra and the Viennese Opera Ball on May 11 and 12. Both evenings promise to be an evening of excitement, romance and glamour.

New issues to be tackled at AWI

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

THE Arab World Institute in Paris is seeking to temper its focus on historical issues with a new emphasis on contemporary topics in major policy shift aimed at shaping the institute into a force to reckon with on both the Arab and French cultural scenes. The prime mover behind this new approach is the Institute's president Edgard Pisani, a seasoned French administrator, formerly a European commissioner and an adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand.

"History is not all. Ibn Khaldun (14th century Arab philosopher) is fine but he belongs to the past" is his answer to those who insist a limiting the institute's activity to the past glory of the Arab civilisation.

In an effort to conquer new ground in terms of subject matter as well as audience the staff of the three-year-old institute was instructed to come out of its shell and reach out to the Arab world. Hence Pisani's current visit to

Kuwait as part of a tour that will take him to the Gulf states and Jordan. The institute also plans to use radio and TV to broadcast its programmes.

Widening the scope of the institute's activity in another direction is Pisani's desire to have more inter-cultural as opposed to a single culture events.

"A single culture issue is interesting. An inter-cultural debate is more interesting. After all we are between two civilisations," he said of the institute.

He was proven right when 400 Arabs and Frenchmen took part in an impassioned but tolerant debate on the Algerian liberation war, a sensitive topic rarely tackled jointly by the Algerians and French.

The institute, set up by France and 22 Arab countries to promote a dialogue between them, recorded last year one million visitors which equals two per cent of the French population. Situated in a magnificent glass building on the banks of the Seine it houses a wealth of books,



Pisani

slides, photos and recordings, all available for the public use. Its exhibition hall is rarely unused and it runs regular film projections.

Kuwait has been a fervent supporter of the institute not only in financial terms but also acting as a mediator when there is a divergence of views among the founder members. In 1992 Kuwait's Dar Al Athar will help the institute organise an Islamic art exhibition.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.25 Arabic Act — Al Wafa
12.30 News in brief and closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 The Little Artist
6.00 Historical serial — Muslim judges
7.00 Songs
7.15 Nour Al Islam
7.45 Cultural Programme
7.50 Security and Citizens Magazine
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Weekly programme — local Al Adhah
10.15 Daily Arabic serial — Layali Al Helmya
11.15 Arabic weekly serial
12.00 News in brief
12.05 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 A cartoon series for children
6.30 Take Hart: Drawing

with coloured brushes on plates. A display of certain paintings....

7.00 Survival: The Land of Dragons. A look at animal life in Hong Kong: 230 islands rich of wildlife....
7.30 Out of This World: Around the World in 80 Minutes. Evie's mother finds herself in a spacecraft around the world....

8.00 News in English
8.30 Philip Marlowe: Trouble Is My Business. Miss Gaitre, a wealthy spinster, hires Marlowe to save her brother Gerald from an artist called Harvete....
9.30 The Road to War: "Great Britain." Britain leaders in the 1930s have been dubbed "The Guilty Men" — guilty of a policy of appeasement which left Britain at the mercy of dictators.
10.30 Feature film: "Volunteers." Starring: Rita Wilson, Tim Thomerson. A group of volunteers realises that the bridge they have built is of interest to rebels in Thailand.
12.00 News in brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

NOTE: Sports Channel 6 and 45 will at 5.00 pm show live the FA Cup Final match from Wembley.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Salmiya
Arabic film
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Dana Pani
Fahadheel Open-air
Kawn Jeeta Kawn Hara
Al Fahadheel
Kireedam
Al Jahra
Iron Angels

Granada
Super Master
Salaikhah
Arabic film
Al Jleeb
Ammananu Pattiya Amali
Ahmadi Drive-in
Man on Fire

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.29 am
Zuhr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.31
Isha	7.57

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Gallery Dahiyat
Abdullah Al Salem
THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

Approb meeting
THE bi-monthly meeting of the Approb members will be held on May 17, 1990, at 7 pm at the residence of Iqbal Laif.
The meeting will be followed by dinner and entertainment. All members are requested to attend.
Meanwhile, the Approb executive board has decided to compile "Who is who" directory of Pakistani professionals and businessmen in Kuwait. Modalities of the project will be discussed at the May 17 meeting.

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Painting exhibition

A PAINTING exhibition titled, *Around the World*, will be held at Kuwait International Hotel from May 8-16 by Mrs Luz Marina Colwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will show subjects from different countries as well as a special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, desertscapes, landscapes and Islamic designs. Tel.: 2530000.

Hyderabad Mushaira

THE committee for celebrations of four centenary of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 8.00 pm at Carlton Tower Hotel, Fayed Al Salem Street. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in it along with prominent local poets. A limited number of seats left. Reserve your seat now to avoid disappointment. For passes and more details call Khalish Hyderabad, on 4735591 ext. 34 (between 7 am - 12.30 pm).

Boushahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'ei. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

British Council

FEATURE FILM: *After Pilkington*, Saturday May 12 and Sunday, May 13 at 6.30 pm.
This won the prix Italia Drama Award in 1987. With a skillfully drawn framework of black comedy, the situation is deadly, Bob Peck, Miranda Richardson and Barry Forster render outstanding performance making more memorable the witty dialogue of Simon Gray's original screenplay.
CHILDREN'S FILM: *Teddy Ruxpin*, a rainbow of many colours. Wednesday, May 16 at 6.00 pm and Thursday, May 17 at 10.30 am.
Hurry! Don't miss Teddy and his friends escaping from a giant runaway strawberry and making a daring journey to Rainbow Falls.
Please book seats by calling Tel. Nos: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

Daniella Dhow Trip

FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Danes has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am.

Kuwait Welsh Society

THE annual general meeting and social evening will be held at 8 pm on May 23, 1990. For details of venue, etc, please ring 3912384, 3713467 or 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

Kuwait Singers

THE Kuwait Singers present a Spring Frolic at the Gulf English School, Salwa, 8 pm, May 16, 17. Refreshments provided. Bookings: 5384873 & 3900922.

HOTELS

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.
Hunt Room: The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.
Le Tarbouche: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarbouche

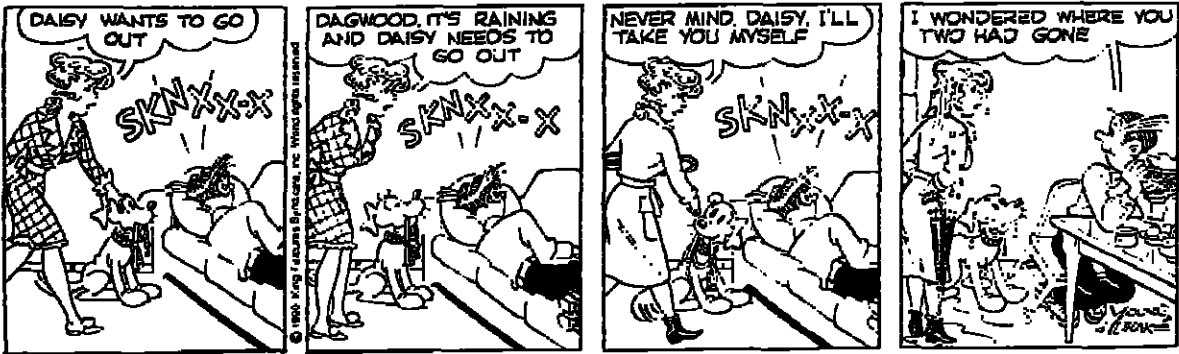
offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends.
Al Hamra: Enjoy the Arabian buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gili Amici and singer Maha.

SPORTS

Windsurfing
ALL are welcome to the Messilah Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.
Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size 1D 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

Tamil drama
IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthusiasts," after their last year's roaring success of *Unnaiye Unn Vilai Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.
For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879.

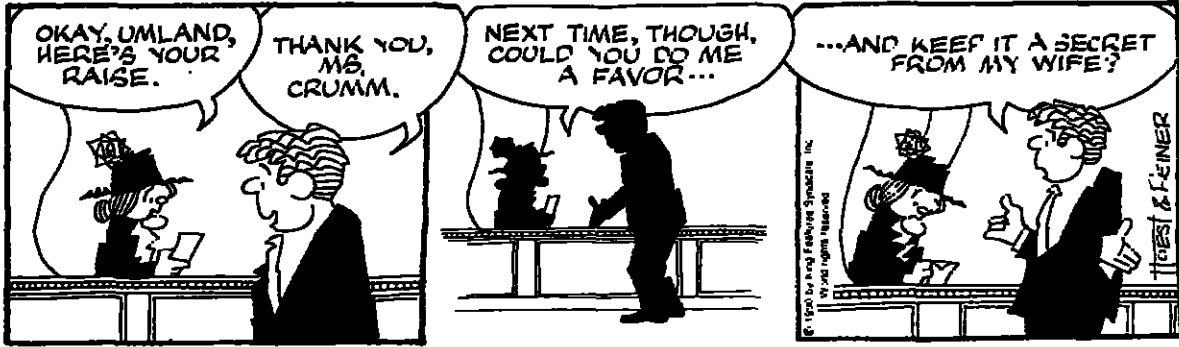
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



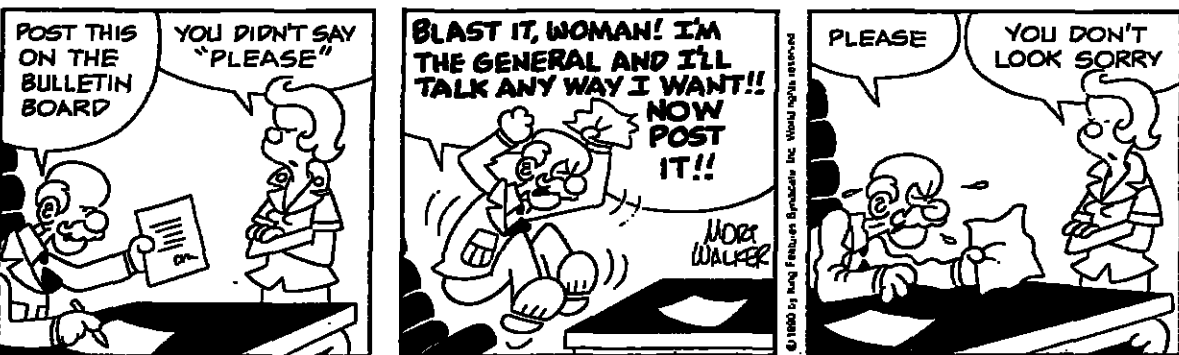
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



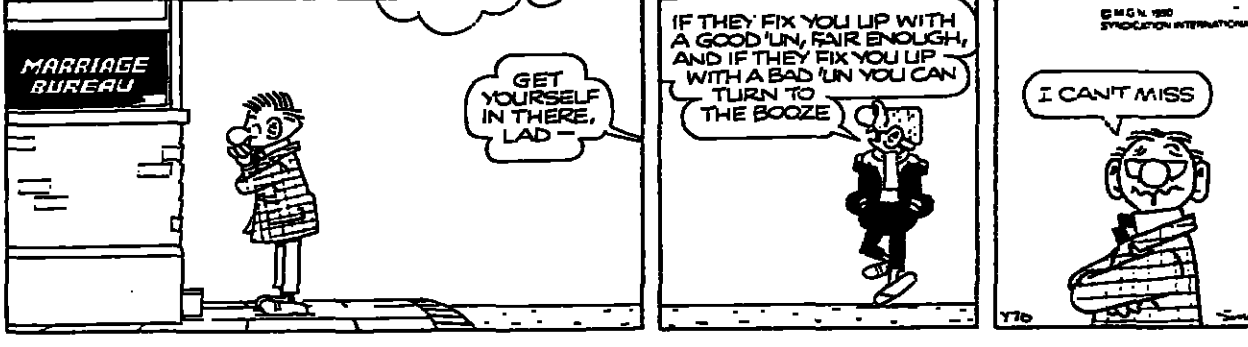
BEETLEBAILEY — By Mort Walker



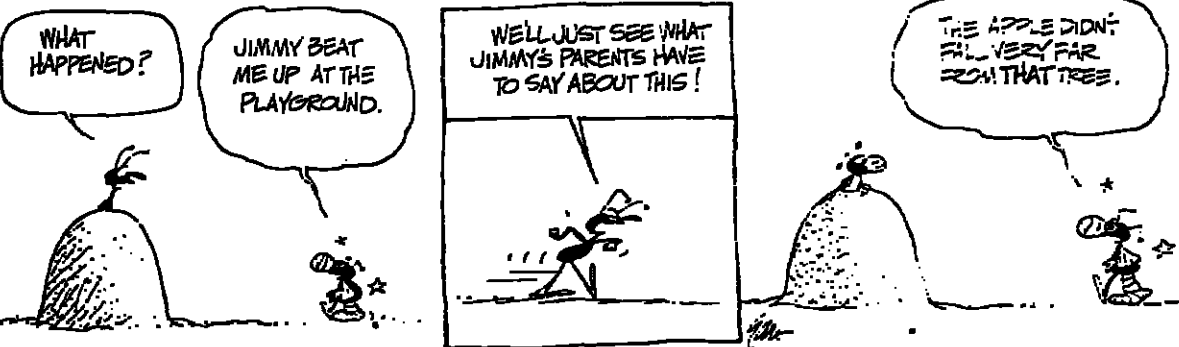
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



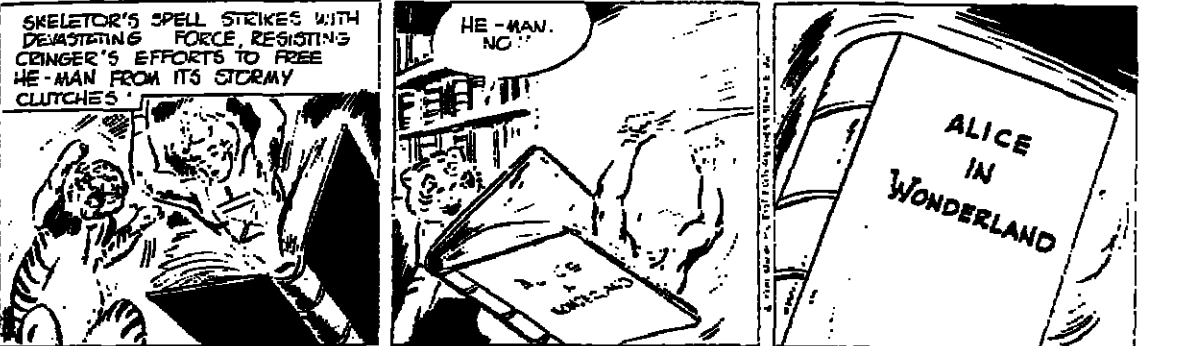
ANDY CAPP



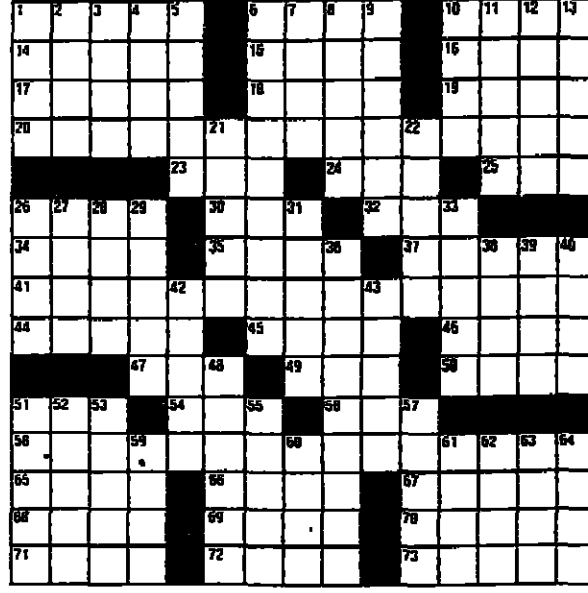
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Novelist Potok
 - 6 Distinctive doctrines
 - 10 Bench or pew
 - 14 Puccini's opera
 - 15 Spruce
 - 16 Lofty
 - 17 A Lauder
 - 18 Mitchell plantation
 - 19 Storyteller's villain
 - 20 Popular title for an 1872 painting
 - 23 Patriotic org.
 - 24 Skirt's edge
 - 25 Linka item
 - 26 Old woman's home
 - 30 Backbenches: Abbr.
 - 32 Twit, to a Brit
 - 34 Long, long times
 - 35 Humorist
 - 37 Dance for two
 - 41 1901 Russian play
 - 44 Old Testament book
 - 45 Makes lace
 - 46 Certain deer
 - 47 Word in parentheses
 - 49 Virginia hero's monogram
 - 50 "Dragonwyck" author Seton
 - 51 Dunderhead
 - 54 "Pace, pace, mio —!" Verdi aria
 - 56 Hold a bull session
 - 58 1960s TV series
 - 65 Possess
 - 66 Needle case
 - 67 Romeo and Juliet
 - 68 Cook's
- DOWN**
- 28 Individuals
 - 29 — Park, Colorado town
 - 31 Villify
 - 33 — National Park, Poland
 - 36 Minor planets
 - 38 Broadway sign
 - 39 "Cabaret" luminary
 - 40 Greek peak
 - 42 Alaskan tribe
 - 43 Eastern religion
 - 48 Pauline Kael's subject
 - 51 A Musketeer
 - 52 Close — narrow escape
 - 53 Number of Rome's hills
 - 55 Many times
 - 57 Feline rumbles
 - 59 Content ending
 - 60 Litter's littlest
 - 61 Yannick of tennis
 - 62 CXIX plus XXXVII
 - 63 Malicious look
 - 64 Anagram for seen

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MOLD SOLED SUPS
ALOE ADORER PTAH
RIOT TEASE OUSE
COMEDY OF ERRORS
CORN ANNE
ORATE DIETS
PURE ALERTS DIE
THE DIVINE COMEDY
SRA RADISH AMOR
KILOS EXILE
URNS ASTI
THE HUMAN COMEDY
STOA TORTE IDEA
PEND ELTON ZEAL
ARES SLANT ELLE

GOREN BRIDGE

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

East-West vulnerable. South hearts.

NORTH
♠ J 8 5 4
♥ A 10 9 7 6 4 3
♦ K
♣ A

WEST
♠ K 9
♥ Void
♦ Q 9 6 5 2
♣ K Q 10 8 5 4

EAST
♠ A 10 6 2
♥ 8
♦ J 10 7 4
♣ J 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 7 3
♥ K Q J 5 2
♦ A 8 3
♣ 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ 2 ♠ 3 ♣ 4 ♠
Pass 5 ♠ 5 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Every once in a while, just when you think you know all about the standard positions in the game, someone comes up with a new wrinkle. We are indebted to Terence Reese and *Bridge Today* for this hand.

North's three-club cue-bid did not necessarily promise control of the club suit—it was simply a forcing bid denoting slam interest. South showed a minimum opening by passing four clubs, but North was unwilling to sell out below five

Declarer won the opening club lead in dummy, cashed the king of diamonds and drew the outstanding trump. After ruffing the club, South returned to hand with a trump, cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a spade from the table, then ruffed a diamond. That completed stripping the closed hand and dummy of minor-suit cards.

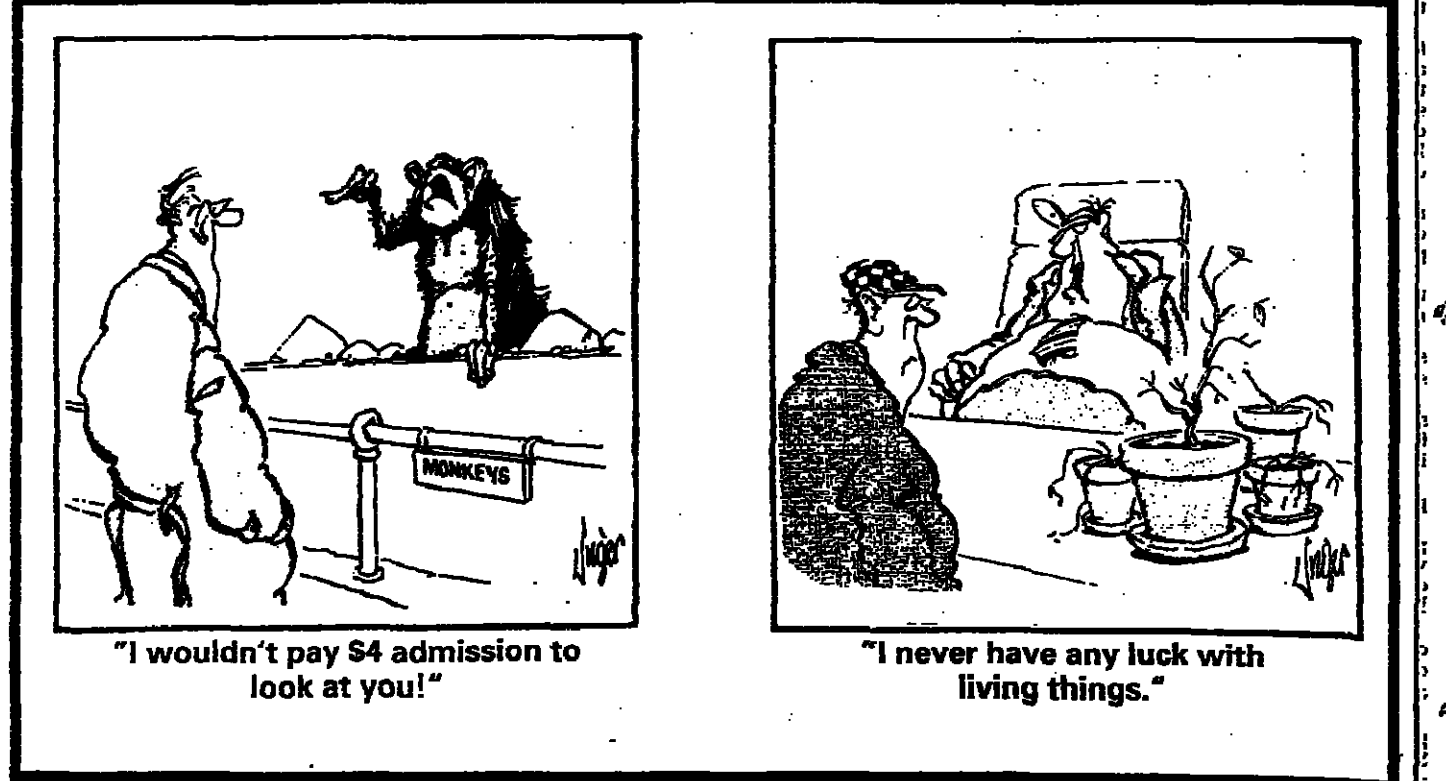
Since it was quite likely the spade honors were split, the way to hold your losers in the suit to two is to presume spades are 4-2 and, after forcing out the honor in the long hand, duck out the other honor. Since West had shown out of hearts and might have overcalled two no trump with 6-5 in the minors, declarer elected to play East for the short spades. So South made the reasonable play of a spade to the queen. West won and returned a spade, and the defenders took two more tricks in the suit—down one.

Reese points out that, if the suit is 4-2, declarer need not guess who has the long spades. Declarer should simply play a low spade from both hands when first broaching the suit. The defenders can take one more spade, but must then concede the game by yielding a ruff-and-shuff, allowing declarer to discard a losing spade from one hand while trumping in the other.



YOUR STARS

- Aries** (March 21 - April 20)
An opportunity to come closer to your partner should not be missed. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 37. Resist a trend to take too much for granted. Avoid excessive optimism no less than excessive pessimism. Be magnanimous.
- Cancer** (June 21 - July 20)
A tendency to exaggerate should be curbed. Once you have made a promise stick to it even though it may not be easy to do. You should do well to try to be just that much more tidy and not to allow litter to accumulate. Be attentive.
- Libra** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Any liability to eat in excess no less than to eat too little should be kept in check. Far better to maintain a constant weight than to have to take drastic measure to gain or lose. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be considerate.
- Capricorn** (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)
Not everything is to your liking but you cannot always expect all things to be. Make sure that a hobby does not take up too much of your time and energy. Do not place too reliance on good fortune. Be sensible.
- Taurus** (April 21 - May 20)
You should try to avoid getting into an argument. Whilst looking after your health you should not become cranky about it. You should seek not to get things out of proportion. Be decent.
- Leo** (July 21 - Aug. 21)
A tendency to gloss over the difficulties should be guarded against. At the same time you should avoid creating difficulties where in fact there are none or few. Do take a little more pride in your appearance. Be punctual.
- Scorpio** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Something you have long wanted to do may well prove to be a disappointment. Never mind at least you have been able to try. You should go out of your way to please your partner as well as a member of your family. Be resilient.
- Aquarius** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You should have a little more faith in yourself. A trend towards carelessness should be combatted at all costs. A little time spent tidying up will save a lot of time looking for things. Be on the lookout for a trap.
- Gemini** (May 21 - June 20)
You should do your best to become aware of other people's opinions. And provided they are within the law, you should also respect them even if you do not agree. Take even more care than when on the road whether as a pedestrian or a motorist. Be less obstinate.
- Virgo** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Even though you may be lacking just the right equipment you will be able to employ a little ingenuity to adapt. However be very careful there are risks involved. Only if you think you are, are you too old to learn. Be less impatient.
- Sagittarius** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
Do not expect your children to be mirror images of you, allow them to develop their own personality. Do not try to hide your head in the sand, only by facing up to them can you deal with your problems. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be more tolerant.
- Pisces** (Feb. 23 - March 20)
There is a greater likelihood of mistakes and you should do your best to avoid them. Something you had been fearing will not be nearly as bad as you had anticipated. Your sense of humor will stand you in stead. Be tactful.





Erma: 'Farouq liked plump women; maybe that's the secret of his love for me.'

Golden memories of the kingand I

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Arab Times Editor-in-Chief

IT was a beautiful afternoon. After leaving Erma — with an appointment for a second round of "nostalgia" later in the evening, I took a break and wandered around the lovely streets of Rome. But Farouq's memory lingered on

The taxi driver was a talkative person and volunteered to give me a lesson in the history of Rome.

Soon, it was time for the second session with Erma. I took Erma to an ancient restaurant where she frequently went with Farouq.

Everything in the restaurant seemed to have revived the golden memories with the king. Erma was much affected and her eyes filled tears. She blamed me for reopening her wounds. It was the same place, the same piano and the same music played. Suddenly, the music stopped. I was surprised. The pianist was heading towards Erma. He bowed and kissed her hand and asked her if she would like to hear the well-known song "What your mother gave you." She nodded. He played the song...

I could see she was disturbed and offered to take her to

'Farouq was fond of the green tables; he loved teasing women and played with them but he never touched alcohol.'

'I loved Farouq not because he was king but because he represented the mystique of the Orient.'



Farouq and Erma: nostalgia

told me he didn't like Vivien Leigh because she was too thin. Farouq preferred plump women. Perhaps, this could be the secret behind his love for me. I am plump.

"I loved Farouq not because he was king but because he represented the mystique of the Orient. I was too young to realise the implications of falling in love with a king."

"As I grew older, at 16, the dream of becoming a queen intrigued me but it was not an ambition. As I grew older, I became involved in Farouq's cultural life — opera, theatre, music and movies. All this attracted me to Farouq..."

I interrupted her to ask her what she felt about Farouq's enormous wealth. It is said that Farouq took gold and silver and an enormous amount of cash with him when he left Egypt.

She sighed and said: "Believe me, O Kuwaiti, Farouq died like a beggar. He did not leave anything behind. During his last days, he sold all his valuables like jewellery to meet his daily expenses. Farouq received a pension of \$20,000 per month from a Middle Eastern personality; he lived on this money..."

"He did carry many suitcases when he left Egypt. But I am told they only contained his clothes and some jewellery."

"It is no secret that his wife Nariman deserted him three months after coming to Italy because he was no more a king."

"Farouq once told me: 'I don't know how I was talked into marrying her; she was not suitable for me.'"

"Farouq saw his children frequently and visited them in their schools..."

I asked her if Farouq received any financial assistance from his brother, the Shah of Iran. Erma retorted: "Farouq disliked the Shah of Iran. Farouq's divorce reflected in the ill-feelings between them. The Shah did not send anything to Farouq."

She paused reflectively. I took out my cigar and lit it. She looked amazed and said: "You remind me of Farouq. You light the cigar just like him!"

Erma seemed anxious and tense and told me: "Don't worry, O Kuwaiti. Let me shed a few tears for Farouq, whom I loved ever so much. My love for him was above all personal ambition."

Erma lives in a small house she bought after becoming an opera singer and declined to answer my questions about Farouq's death. She said: "I am not a politician. He told me how much he loved Egypt and the Egyptians. He subscribed to all Egyptian newspapers and magazines and read everything — good or bad — written about him. He listened to Gamal Abdul Nasser. But he never commented."

At this juncture, my interview with Erma came to an end — but not for long — as she promised to continue her reminiscences about the king.

To be continued....

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Allergic reaction to penicillin is not unusual

QUESTION: A close member of our family recently had a frightening experience as he developed an allergic reaction to an injection of penicillin. We wondered how that could happen when he was never allergic before? Does it mean he will have another problem if he ever takes penicillin again? Do any other members of the family have to worry about the chance that they also might be allergic to this medicine?

ANSWER: Although the exact number of cases of allergic reactions to penicillin are not known, estimates place it at from one per cent to as many as 10 per cent of all people treated. While most of the reactions take the form of skin rashes and hives, they can be so severe as to cause the death of the patient. Though there are many hundreds of different medications used to treat disease and illness in the United States, penicillin is the most common drug causing allergic reactions. Perhaps 400 to 800 deaths per year may be due to these reactions, and 75 per cent occur in people who had no history of a previous problem. There is no evidence of family tendency to these allergic reactions so you and the other members of your family have nothing special to fear. The sensitivity to penicillin develops most frequently when penicillin has been used in ointments or creams, or when treatment with this antibiotic has been given for many short periods of time. It usually happens in adults between the ages of 20 and 40, but can develop in people of all ages. While a reaction may occur even when the medication is taken by mouth, it is more severe and happens most frequently when it has been given by injection. When the history is uncertain, but the possibility of an allergy does exist, physicians may either use another antibiotic to fight the infection, or in the cases where only

penicillin will do, perform a skin test to detect the possibility that an allergy exists. There are several methods used to reduce the patient's sensitivity to penicillin, by starting with very small doses initially, then gradually increasing the amount until the full dose needed can be given safely. My advice would be that this family member stay away from penicillin and obtain a MedicAlert bracelet to prevent the chance of ever receiving this medication while unable to give a history.

I thought you would like to know: Allergy season is just over the horizon, or with the early spring in some parts of the U.S. may have already hit your area. As you reach for your over-the-counter medication to combat all the symptoms, perhaps it is time to get to know your medication just a bit better. There are some important warnings on the label that, according to some surveys, is ignored by most people who take the medications. In addition you will want to obtain a copy of an educational, 14-page booklet, that is filled with loads of information about allergy, and its treatment. It's called "Consumer Guide to Treating Allergies" and it's yours, free for the asking, by sending your request and a stamped self-addressed business-sized envelope to "Consumer Guide to Treating Allergies," P.O. Box 731, Dept. FD, Radio City Station, New York, N.Y. 10101-0731. In addition to descriptions of allergies and their causes, you will want to pay particular attention to the many charts which illustrate the booklet, and list the common causes of allergies, and the side effects and warnings that apply to many of the over-the-counter allergy products.

another restaurant but she refused saying: "I know the days gone by won't come back. Let's live for the moment."

Princess Erma told me that Farouq loved music. She recalled: "Though I was quite young at the time, I still remember the nights when he woke up in the middle of the night, put on his dishdasha, lit a cigarette, dimmed the lights and played and replayed the songs of Umm Khulthum, particularly the one which talks about returning to Egypt. He introduced me to Umm Khulthum. He also liked the music of Mohammed Abdul Wahab."

"I used to let Farouq surrender himself to tears... and then I wiped his tears. He would go back to his room and fall into deep sleep."

"It's no secret, O Kuwaiti. I loved the songs even though I did not understand the lyrics, which had such a profound effect on Farouq."

"One day, he told me 'Erma, if I ever return to Egypt, I will marry you and make you my queen.' But he asked me to embrace Islam."

Princess Erma was visibly upset when I asked her if Farouq was an alcoholic.



Erma: 'He promised to make me queen.'

She looked angrily at me and said: "You journalists — you never find anything good to write about. Such allegations have never appeared in Arabic newspapers; Farouq never touched liquor. He only drank water but never hesitated to serve hard liquor to his guests."

Erma admitted that Farouq was a gambler. "He was fond of

'One day he told me if he ever returned to Egypt he would make me his queen.'

the green tables. He loved teasing women and played with them. But he never touched alcohol."

She paused. I recalled the stories published soon after his exile in the 1950s. It seems many fictional stories were written about Farouq.

I told the princess that her story reminded me of the Clark Gable-Vivien Leigh classic *Gone With The Wind* and asked her if the king enjoyed movies.

She said: "He liked watching movies. I remember seeing *Gone With The Wind* with Farouq. He

Reflection of fears of dominant culture

Ethnic history of American toys at museum

PHILADELPHIA (UPI): "Dapper Dan the Coon Jigger," "Hopping Nutty Mad Indian," or "The New Game of Ah-Sia the Heathen Chinese" would be unthinkable names of American toys today.

However, they were accepted in America's past.

A toy exhibit at the Black Institute for Ethnic Studies proposes to shed some light on how much progress has been made in America in the last 150 years and how much more needs to be made.

"We felt if we can interpret them (toys), then we can show the progress," said museum director Gail Stern. "But more is needed."

The exhibit, which runs through Oct. 13, features more than 170 mechanical toys, dolls and games produced in the United States since the mid-1800s. From crude toys depicting stereotypes of the 19th century to "ethnically correct" computer games and contemporary Michael Jackson dolls, the exhibit illustrates a century of change in ethnic images.

Industrialization in the late 1800s brought mass production to America and with it a flood of toys to the market, including many racist products, Stern said.

"That is where the more offensive toys started," she said. "The ethnic images in the toys reflect the attitude of the dominant culture."

"Very few children knew what they were seeing and the effects it had," said museum spokesman Lawrence Seiver.

With the flood of immigrants and the end of slavery, derogatory stereotypes reflected the fears of whites that their power and cultural hegemony was being threatened, Stern said.

"Always, the new group is made fun of by the preceding groups," Seiver said.

polls his eyes as he swallows. Stern said the toy belittled Irish people and tended to reduce them to the level of animals. By the end of World War I, there was a

Rubik plans world-wide chain

BUDAPEST (Reuters): Remember the Rubik cube? That infuriating puzzle twistable in 43,252, 003,274, 489, 856,000 different positions but never, it seemed, the right one.

If you weren't one of the 150 million who bought one after its appearance 16 years ago, never mind: its inventor Erno Rubik is re-launching it as a classic toy.

And if you already have one, you might be interested in other ingenious products designed by the former professor of design who has just transformed his Rubik Studio from a small co-operative into a limited company.

"The company's character is based on my interests," Rubik, 45, told Reuters. "That means new original ideas and the development of new products not only in the toy field but in many other areas such as furniture and construction — useful things."

The Rubik Studio has a staff of just 20, including cleaners. Rubik himself is the chief designer.

Products launched since the studio was set up in 1984 include two other fendish puzzles: Rubik's Magic and Rubik's Clock. Licensed to the US company Matchbox, they have sold 50 million and two million copies respectively.

But Rubik, son of aircraft designer Erno Rubik, makes more than just toys.

His biggest money-earner, he says, is a commercial display system costing \$1,000 a square metre (1.1 square yards).

He has also produced new types of basket and distinctive wooden clothes-horses for hotels.

change in American toys. Cultural attitudes toward ethnic groups softened and it was reflected "in the toys," Stern said. Rather than degrading different groups, toys showed token expres-

"There are interesting projects under way. But the problem is that the task is too big."

He is now working with the Hungarian Academy of Engineering to set up a new foundation under his president which will embrace his Innovation Foundation.

"We are looking for quality people, the top of their field, to help the technical process in Hungary and find contacts with other academics in other countries, to exchange ideas."

Rubik, who had daughters aged 12 and two and a son of eight, has resisted lucrative offers to work abroad.

"There is only one place you can call home. And what can I do with 100 Mercedes? I have achieved what I need for myself and my family. I am not working for the money. I've got enough. I find it more tiring and boring to spend than to earn."

But he wants Rubik products constantly available world-wide.

"Our aim is for anybody going to a toyshop anywhere in the world to find a corner of Rubik products: old ones, new ones, the latest ones," he says.

And he has long-term plans to set up "innovation studios" around the world in cities like London, Los Angeles and Tokyo. All the studios would be involved in Rubik-like products.

He finds the essential characteristic of a Rubik product hard to define.

sions of ethnicity but generally encouraged assimilation.

The 1920s saw non-threatening dolls and toys of non-English-speaking Europeans, Ethnic Africans, Asians, Eskimos and other groups. The first realistic black infant doll, the "Bye-Lo Baby," appeared in the early 1920s, said Stern. Earlier black dolls were stereotyped as "mammy" or "pickaninny."

But by the end of World War II, the desire for ethnic assimilation reached a point where most ethnic images in toys disappeared, Stern said.

Americans views on beauty and attractiveness were reflected in shapely, blue-eyed "Barbie" dolls, Stern said. The face of white children were shown on toy boxes and playing boards and cards.

There were virtually no images anywhere of non-whites, with the notable exception of images of native Americans, who were viewed negatively, Stern said.

In books, films and on television, whites were portrayed as bravely conquering the West by fighting Indians, who were characterized as savages, Stern said.

Toys depicted Indians as comical and child-like, while reducing their sacred cultural materials, such as pipes, tom-toms, tepees and headdresses, to the playthings of white children, Stern said.

Only in the wake of the civil rights movement in the 1960s did multi-ethnic images begin to reappear in American toys. Many different groups — but particularly blacks — were shown for the first time as strong, brave, heroic and intelligent.

There are now black, Hispanic and Asian "Barbie" dolls and GI Joes. There are positive ethnic images in video games, computers and board games, such as those quizzing children on historical figures from different ethnic groups.

"In general ethnicity now enhances a toy's attractiveness," Stern said.

But that does not mean negative images have disappeared.

'Bad' cop sells movie rights to her first novel

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD (UPI): Discredited cop-turned-Columbia University graduate student Kim Wozencraft earned \$7,000 last year while completing her Master's thesis. So far this year she's made \$1 million.

Instead of writing a series of short stories or a treatise on Shakespeare's choice of adjectives for her thesis, Wozencraft wrote a novel about her experiences as an undercover narcotics cop in Tyler, Texas.

The novel, *Rush*, was sold to Random House. Producers Richard and Lili Fini Zanuck (*Driving Miss Daisy*) paid Wozencraft the million bucks for the screen rights — that's a record.

Maybe the \$1 million will help Wozencraft put her life back together after surviving what the Texas Constabulary calls justice.

Rush is largely autobiographical. It tells a horror story of a naive 21-year-old Texas girl who joins a suburban police department.

Even before undergoing training she is immediately sent undercover to buy drugs from dope dealers. She becomes a drug addict in the line of duty, takes the rap for superiors in a legal trap and ends up serving time in a federal penitentiary.

Is that a great role for Jodie Foster or what?

The amazing thing is that Wozencraft's outrageous and inflammatory saga is based on the truth. What makes her novel so compelling is the hard case dialogue of the cops. The patois

of the drug underworld is searingly authentic.

Now 35 years old and inwardly still suffering bruises that may never disappear, Wozencraft only slips into Texas to visit her family. Texas is not necessarily constitute a Wozencraft fan club.

Recently in Hollywood to promote *Rush*, Wozencraft expressed gratitude to the Zanucks and said she would have nothing to say about how her novel is interpreted in the screenplay.

Nor has she ever imagined any actress in the role, saying she pictured a young woman much like herself — except with blonde hair — as the protagonist-victim.

Wozencraft is somewhat pale with hazel eyes, short brown hair, a soft voice and the demeanor of a woman who has seen too much of the seamy side of life. She says she's become hard.

"I was a writer before I became a cop," she said. "Just poetry and stories. I wrote for the school newspaper. In this book I leaned very heavily on my personal experiences as a cop."

"When I joined the force in Tyler I expected to be a patrol officer, not a narc. I became a drug addict — like so many other narcotic cops do — because it was necessary to convince the dealers. I sometimes had to take drugs when a dealer had a gun in his hand."

"If I snorted coke or free-based, it proved to their satisfaction that I wasn't the heat. I wasn't a cop. After you do that a few times you're an addict. You

get hooked.

"I got unhooked years later, which is hard to do. But I'm over it now."

"I know narcotics agents who have drug problems and get booted out the backdoor. It's hard work with hard consequences."

"When the police let you go for addiction, they don't want to hear about it, much less read about it in a book."

Wozencraft left the Tyler Force in 1979 while she was an addict. She had been a cop not quite three years.

"I had no idea what I was getting into," she said. "My partner and I were attacked by a guy with a shotgun one morning. After that we were put into protective custody in the department basement for about five weeks. I could only go out with a police escort."

"Then they put us in a safe house where I began keeping a journal, which I continued in prison for 13 months of an 18-month sentence."

"I was convicted of violation of civil rights and perjury on a fictitious case against an alleged pornographer. I was only following orders under pressure from the bosses."

"In 1982 I was sent to prison in Lexington, Kentucky, the old narcotics farm."

"Texas justice has a certain reputation. Now I don't want to put myself into a position where I might be pulled over in Texas."

"I live and work in New York City. It has its own problems with the law, but at least there are people there who will listen."

United seek record-equalling seventh English FA Cup victory

LONDON, May 11, (Reuters). Manchester United, a club steeped in history, have the opportunity of equalling Aston Villa and Tottenham's record seven English FA Cup final victories when they meet Crystal Palace in tomorrow's FA Cup final.

They have already added to their illustrious record by qualifying for the Wembley showpiece, equalling the 11 Cup final appearances by Arsenal and Newcastle.

Palace, who won promotion to the First Division last season, are playing in the final for the first time in their 85-year history, and Wembley is again host in a battle between glamorous giant and defiant underdog.

United, with their prestigious past and a star-studded side containing at least nine internationals, need look back only two years, however, for the last major FA Cup final upset.

In 1988 Liverpool were already champions and strode out at Wembley against Wimbledon confident of claiming their second League and Cup double in three seasons. Wimbledon won 1-0.

Palace, like Wimbledon an unfashionable team from south London, have already proved they have the aptitude and skills to cause an upset with their shock 4-3 semi-final victory over League champions Liverpool.

Morale is high in the Palace camp, partly from their semifinal performance and also because several casualties have recovered from injury.

Striker Ian Wright, who with Mark Bright forged a successful partnership which terrorised Second Division defences last season, has recovered from breaking his left leg twice in three months.

Manager Steve Coppell, who played for Manchester United in three FA Cup finals in the 1970s, included Wright in his 18-man squad after watching him in a mid-week reserve game but said he would not decide whether to include him in the team until tomorrow morning.

More important possibly was the recent recovery of centre-back Andy Thorn, whose control of the defence is crucial to Palace's strategy.

Both clubs struggled all season to avoid the drop to the Second Division and finished level on points, five above the relegation zone.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 11, (Reuters). Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

American League		
Minnesota	3	Cleveland
Detroit	10	Toronto
Kansas City	6	Texas
Seattle	5	California

National League		
San Diego	9	St Louis
Montreal	8	Los Angeles
Cincinnati	10	Pittsburgh

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, May 11, (Reuters). Results of National Hockey League Stanley Cup semifinal playoff game yesterday.

Campbell Conference finals: Edmonton Oilers 4, Chicago Black Hawks 3 (Oilers lead best-of-seven series 3-2).

NBA award

NEW YORK, May 11, (Reuters). San Antonio Spurs centre David Robinson, who last season was the unanimous choice for the National Basketball Association Rookie of the Year, was named winner of the League's Fivestart Player Award, the NBA announced on Wednesday.

Woosnam leads

BRUSSELS, May 11, (Reuters). Briton Ian Woosnam, runner-up to Jose Maria Olazabal in the Benson and Hedges golf international in England on Monday, shot a six-under-par 66 to take the first round lead in the Belgian Open yesterday.

Memorial golf

DUBLIN, Ohio, May 11, (Reuters). Fred Couples shot an admirable three-under-par 69 in atrocious weather conditions yesterday to grab a four-stroke lead after the opening round of the \$1 million Memorial tournament at the Muirfield Village Golf Club.

Berlin swim

LOS ANGELES, May 11, (UPI). Lynne Cox, the long-distance swimmer perhaps best-known for her 1987 swim across the Bering Strait from Russia to the Soviet Union, announced Wednesday she has been given permission to swim from East Berlin to West Berlin.

Foreign tours

JOHANNESBURG, May 11, (Reuters). South Africa's black and white rugby union boards took another stride towards non-racial harmony yesterday when they announced a ban on foreign tours and the start of serious unification talks.

Mulsanne Straight

PARIS, May 11, (Reuters). Safety measures carried out this year on the infamous Mulsanne Straight at the Le Mans race course will cut speeds drastically at this year's 24 hours sports car race, organisers said yesterday.

Tight rein

GLASGOW, May 11, (Reuters). Celtic goalkeeper Pat Bonner today warned his team-mates to keep a tight rein on Aberdeen striker Charlie Nicholas in tomorrow's Scottish Cup final. Bonner sees the extrovert Nicholas, a former Celtic player, as a big threat to the Glasgow club lifting the cup for the third successive year.

Definite runner

LONDON, May 11, (Reuters). English 1,000 Guineas winner Salsabil was confirmed today as a definite runner in the Epsom Oaks horse racing classic on June 9.

Clark quits

BRUSSELS, May 11, (Reuters). Britain's Howard Clark quit the Belgian Open golf tournament today after playing just six holes of the second round. He was immediately fined £100 (\$165) by PGA European Tour tournament director Michael Tate for retiring with insufficient reason.

Ajax appeal

AMSTERDAM, May 11, (Reuters). The European Football Union (Uefa) will seriously consider an appeal by Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam against a ban excluding them from next season's European Cup, UEFA president Lenart Johansson said on Wednesday.

Portuguese Cup

LISBON, May 11, (Reuters). Farense became the first Second Division soccer club to reach the Portuguese Cup final in nearly three decades yesterday, beating holders Belenenses 2-1. Estrela Amadora and Guimaraes drew 1-1 in the other semifinal and have to play again, probably on May 17.

Sampdoria clinch Cup

Two-goal Vialli stuns Anderlecht



Vialli holds up the Cup Winners' Cup. (Reuters wirephoto)

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 11, (Reuters). Italy's star striker Gianluca Vialli snatched up two extra-time goals on Wednesday as Sampdoria beat Anderlecht of Belgium 2-0 to win their first European Cup Winners' Cup soccer title.

Vialli rifled home his goals either side of the interval in extra time to give the Italian club, beaten in last year's final by Barcelona, their first international soccer trophy.

The Genoa side's first goal came 15 minutes into extra time after Vialli had squandered a series of chances in the goalless first 90 minutes which were dominated by the Italians.

Sampdoria substitute midfielder Fausto Salsano's low drive from the edge of the area rebounded off the far post and Anderlecht goalkeeper Filip De Wilde, lying on the ground, failed to get hold of the ball which Vialli rolled into the net.

Vialli, recently recovered from a foot injury, hit again only two minutes later, heading a beautiful cross from team-mate Roberto Mancini behind the helpless De Wilde.

The victory also strengthened Italian hopes of a remarkable Grand Slam in this season's European competitions, with Juventus and Fiorentina contesting the UEFA Cup final and AC Milan due to face Portugal's Benfica in the European Cup final on May 24.

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Maradona with his wife and daughter watching a match at the Italian Open tennis tournament on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Australia edge S.Korea

Dutch blast English

SYDNEY, Australia, May 11, (AP). Striker Jacqui Pereira scored an overtime goal today to lift Australia to a 2-1 victory over arch-rival South Korea and a place in the final of the women's World Cup field hockey tournament.

Australia, the Olympic champion, will play defending champion the Netherlands in tomorrow's final of the 12-nation tournament at the State Sports Centre. The Dutch team swamped England 5-0 in the other semi-final.

Mickelton Wouters (2), Wietske de Ruiter, Lianne Lejeune and Carol Thate all scored goals for the Netherlands, which has yet to concede a goal in the tournament.

England, which had not given up a goal going into the semis, was simply over-powered by the powerful and clever Dutch team, which led 3-0 after only 16 minutes.

Australia's victory over South Korea was repeat of its victory over the Koreans in the final of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games tournament.

Captain Sharon Buchanan shot the top-seeded Aussies ahead after 25 minutes when she caught a pass from Lee Capes and slammed it home.

But South Korea fought back and equalized in the 49th minute through forward Jin Won Sim.

Australian goalkeeper Maree Fish made three crucial saves in the first five minutes of overtime before Sally Carbon created the winning goal after 95 minutes of play.

Carbon freed Michelle Hawkes, who gave the pass to Pereira, who now has scored six goals in the tournament.



Corsica rally winner

Didier Auriol (right) shows three fingers to indicate his third consecutive Tour of Corsica victory with team-mate Bernard Ocelli for Lancia Martini Team on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

New Zealand win

BELFAST, May 11, (Reuters). Richard Hadlee captured two early wickets and held a catch to remove Ireland's Test professional from India, Raman Lamba, as New Zealand completed a 40-run victory in their one-day cricket match yesterday.

Ireland, needing 204 to win the 50 overs contest, slumped to 20 for three and never seriously threatened New Zealand's bid for a winning double.

The touring team beat the Irish by seven wickets on Wednesday.

Hadlee's two strikes accounted for opener Mark Cohen and Mark Nulty, while he caught Lamba off fellow pace bowler Martin Snedden for five.

Stephen Warke dominated the Irish batting, striking five boundaries in a fluent 44 before run out, while Jim Patterson weighed in with a rapid 23 before the innings closed at 163 for nine.

New Zealand had made 203 for seven after being put in on a rain-affected pitch, captain John Wright making their top score of 44 supported by 32 each from Andrew Jones and Mark Greatbatch.

A quick-fire 48 from Martin Crowe carried New Zealand to a seven-wicket win over Ireland with 18 overs to spare in the first of the two one-day internationals at Downpatrick on Wednesday.

Crowe hit three towering sixes and one four before he was dismissed with two runs required.

Chasing 152, New Zealand were never in any trouble with Trevor Franklin and John Wright putting on 71 for the first wicket.



Wimbledon tourney

A worker at the Wimbledon Tennis Club strings the racquet of legendary Fred Perry on Wednesday. Preparations have started for the Wimbledon tourney next month. (Reuters wirephoto)

Laing stops Fernandez

LONDON, May 11, (Reuters). Britain's Kirkland Laing won the European welterweight crown on Wednesday when he knocked out French holder Antoine Fernandez inside two rounds.

The win will carry Laing to the brink of his first world title shot at the age of 35.

Laing knocked out Fernandez 30 seconds from the end of the second round to relieve the Frenchman of the crown he took off Italian Nino Rocca in December.

The 35-year-old Fernandez entered the ring with world championship aspirations of his own. But Laing dented those when he put the champion on the floor with a jolting short right early in the second round.

Fernandez rose on unsteady legs to be given a mandatory eight count by Australian referee Walter Schall.

A big right hook finished the Frenchman. Again he was up at eight, but the referee took a deep look into Fernandez's eyes and signalled the end of the fight.



Laing (right) hits Fernandez with a left. (Reuters wirephoto)

Echave takes 17th leg of cycling race

JACA, Spain, May 11, (AP). Spanish cyclist Federico Echave led an early escape from the main pack yesterday, then held on to win the 17th leg of the 45th Tour of Spain.

Marco Giovannetti of Italy remained overall leader in the 22-leg race with only five stages left.

Echave covered the 151.2-kilometre (93.7-mile) stage in three hours, 55 minutes and 47 seconds, edging out Brazilian Cassio Freitas, one of the four riders who accompanied him when he shot out ahead near the start of the leg.

Yesterday's cycling was completed without incident. On Wednesday, two small bombs exploded along the cyclists' route, and police said the armed



Spanish cycling racer Alvaro Pino gets a pain-killer shot during the Tour of Spain race yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Basque separatist group ETA has claimed responsibility. No one was injured in the explosions.

Michael Zanolli, a Dutchman competing for a US team, out-printed American Ron Kiefel yesterday to win the hazardous 10th stage of the Tour de Trump by two feet.

Vladislav Bobrik, a 19-year-old Soviet amateur, retained the leader's pink jersey for the sixth day in a row, losing 10 seconds of his lead to runnerup Raul Alcala.

Worthy takes Lakers past Suns



Lakers' Larry Drew (right) drives against Suns' Jeff Hornacek. (Reuters wirephoto)

INGLEWOOD, California, May 11, (AP). James Worthy scored 23 of his 27 points yesterday in the first half as Los Angeles Lakers rebounded from a narrow loss to overpower Phoenix and even their National Basketball Association playoff series at one game apiece.

The Lakers, who before Tuesday night had beaten the Suns 21 straight times at the forum dating back to 1984, were never in jeopardy in game 2 as they led 33-20 after one quarter, 63-48 at halftime and 97-73 after three periods.

The best-of-7 Western Conference semifinal series now moves to Phoenix for the third and fourth games tomorrow and Sunday afternoons.

Magie Johnson had 21 points and 14 assists for the Lakers. Orlando Woolridge also had 21 points and Byron Scott added 18 for Los Angeles.

Hornacek led the Suns with 18 points and Tim Perry scored 17. Kevin Johnson was held to 12 points and 12 assists and Tom Chambers scored only nine points for Phoenix.

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Results Detroit Pistons 104, New York Knicks 97; Pistons lead best-of-seven series 2-0. San Antonio Spurs 121, Portland Trail Blazers 98; (Trail Blazers lead best-of-seven series 2-1).

Los Angeles Lakers 124, Phoenix Suns 100; (Best-of-seven series tied 1-1).

Michael Jordan scored 45 points as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 101-96 Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in their NBA playoff series.

The best-of-7 Eastern Conference semifinal now swings to Philadelphia for games 3 and 4 on Sunday.

The Bulls, who trailed 54-38 in the second quarter, were down by 11 before a 19-7 surge carried them to a 78-77 lead after three quarters. Chicago never lost the lead in the final period.

Rutherford hospitalised

INDIANAPOLIS, May 11, (UPI). Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Johnny Rutherford was hospitalized with a concussion and injured left knee Wednesday after his second crash in three days of practice for the May 27 race.

The rear of Rutherford's 1989 Lola-Cosworth slid out of control and into the outer wall of turn three. The car became slightly airborne before sliding 765 feet down to the infield at the start of the fourth turn.

Rutherford, seeking his 25th Indy start, was taken from the crash scene on a stretcher with a back brace and sent to Methodist Hospital, where he remained overnight for observation.

He was listed in good condition and was awake and alert.

Windy conditions kept most cars off the track Wednesday during the cooler final minutes of practice known as "happy hour." Where 15 to 20 cars normally take the track in the final few



Rutherford (left) crashes into the wall. (Reuters wirephoto)

Unser Jr., well off the week's top lap of 224.389 mph (361.119 kph) run Monday by five-time pole winner Rick Mears.

The gusty breeze kept most cars off the track Wednesday during the cooler final minutes of practice known as "happy hour." Where 15 to 20 cars normally take the track in the final few

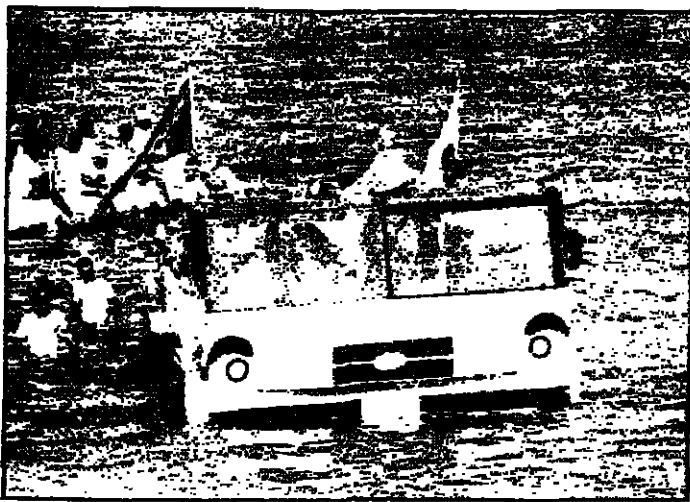
Player robbed

LOS ANGELES, May 11, (AP). Los Angeles Clippers centre Benoit Benjamin was robbed at gunpoint by a man who took his \$75,000 Mercedes Benz automobile, police said.

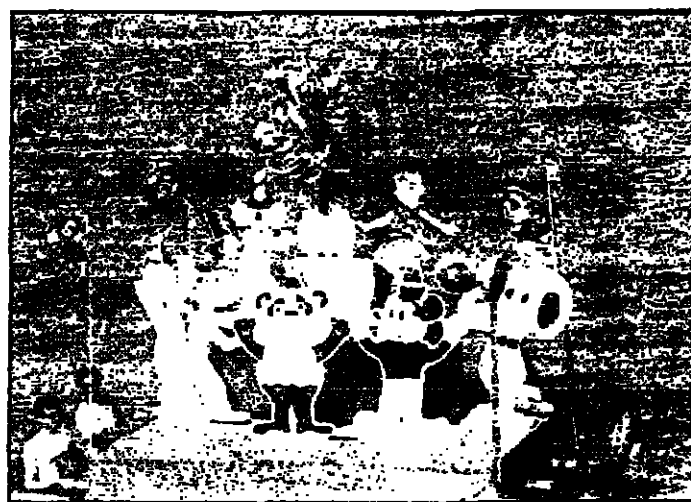
Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy Roger Horn said Benjamin was on his way to visit a friend in Los Angeles Wednesday evening when the man approached him and demanded his car keys.

Benjamin told authorities he handed over the keys to his two-door, white Mercedes 560 SEL after the man fired a shot in the air. Benjamin was not injured, and the robber left in the car.

Benjamin, who is 7 feet (2.13 metres) tall and weighs 250 pounds (113 kilograms), said the robber was a black man about 19 years old, 5-foot-6 (1.67 metres) tall and 155 pounds (61 kilograms).



Fireman Sam



BB Bear



Budo Ka



A MBH team presents a dance number.

Hash teams clinch two trophies in Kuwait raft race

KIH claim Arab Times' Overall Best Carnival Trophy

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

HASH FLASH (Mercedes Benz) took the top honours in the 4th Kuwait Annual Raft Race, held at the Messilah Beach Hotel yesterday, by winning the Governor's Cup.

The all-day event, which was attended by nearly four thousand people and held under the patronage of Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the governor of Kuwait City, was sponsored by the Kuwaiti-Danish Dairy Company.

The Hash team which has been taking most of the top prizes in the earlier competitions, went away with only two of the top prizes this time.

The Hash men's team took the Governor's Cup by winning the welded event final while the women also took the top prize in the same category.

Messilah Beach Hotel, one of the sponsors of the event, took one of the first prizes by winning in the Wood and Rope section. KDD sponsored the Mixed Welded event and took home their own trophy.

Thirty-three rafts built by 16 companies took part in the seven events that ended with a raffle late afternoon.

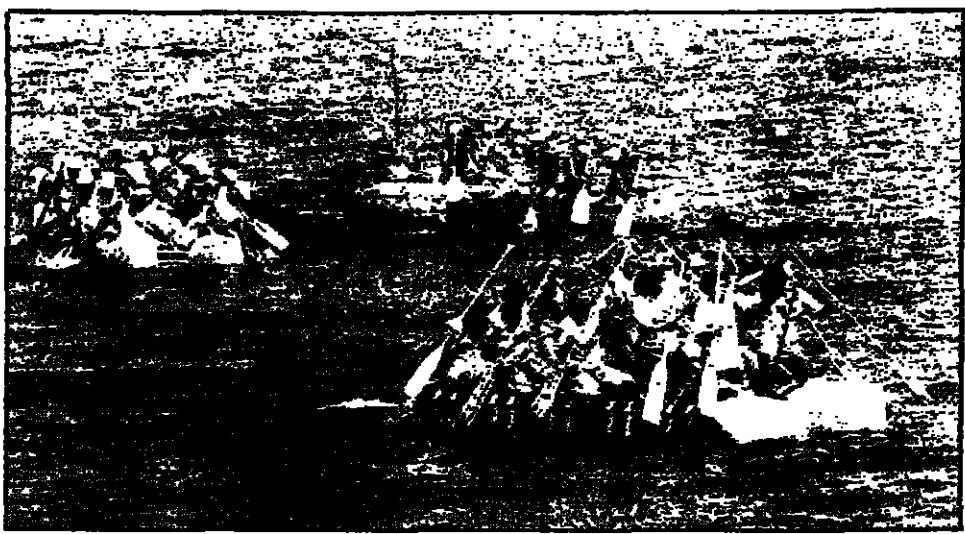
Following is a list of winning rafts with the names of their builders and times:

Ladies' Welded — sponsored by Kuwait Hotels Company
First place: Hash Flash (Mercedes Benz) 5.03.30.

Second place: Stars and Stripes (American School) 5.53.80.

Third place: Heavy Metal (KDD) 5.03.30.

Men's Welded Plate — sponsored by KLM
First place: Hospitality



Two of the raft races in progress.



Some of the winners (above and below) receive their prizes after the event.

Cruiser (Kuwait International Hotel) 5.13.26.
Second place: BMW Football Club (BMW) 5.18.32.
Third place: BP Rent-A-Crew (BP) 5.19.19.

Mixed Welded — sponsored by

ADD
First place: Heavy Metal (KDD) 4.04.89.
Second place: Seacraft (Kellogg) 5.04.43.
Third place: Hospitality Cruiser (Kuwait International

Hotel) 6.04.03.
Wood and Rope — sponsored by Messilah Beach Hotel
First place: Moby Slick (Messilah Beach Hotel) a record time of 4.26.86.
Second place: Woderwicks

Waft (Middle Eastern Chemicals Manufacturing Company) 4.50.14.
Third place: Hash Flash (Mercedes Benz) 5.03.50.
Men's Welded Final — Governor's Trophy

First place: Hash Flash (Mercedes Benz) 4.39.82.
Second place: Sea Craft (Kellogg) 4.38.66.
Third place: Mercury (Messilah Beach Hotel) 4.41.73.
In the carnival event, Win-

ston's Best Constructed Carnival Trophy went to BB Bear by Kids 'R' Us. Jashammal and Partners' Best Dressed Carnival Crew Trophy went to Budo Ka built by Kuwait Sea Sports Club, while the Arab Times' Overall Best

Carnival Trophy was claimed by Kuwait International Hotel (KIH) for their raft Fireman Sam.
The prizes were presented to the winners by Sheikh Ahmed, son of the Kuwait City governor.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Amiri Cup

KUWAIT League champions Jahra were ousted yesterday in the first round of the Amiri Cup competition when Kazma beat them 2-1. In the first leg Kazma also beat them 1-0. Jahra became the third First Division team to crash out of the Amiri Cup competition along with Al Naser and Yarmouk who were ousted by Second Division teams, Sahel and Khatian respectively.

Public apology

BONN, May 11. (Reuters): The head of the Opel car company publicly apologised to West German Tennis Star Steffi Graf today and promised to withdraw an advertisement featuring a scantily-clad Graf looking like surrounded by half-naked men.

Record fine

LONDON, May 11. (Reuters): Glasgow Rangers manager Graeme Souness has been fined a record £5,000 (£8,370) by the Scottish Football Association (SFA) for breaching a touchline ban, officials said yesterday.

Exhibition match

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 11. (Reuters): Bobby Charlton is to lead a four-nation side of ex-internationals in an exhibition match in Cagliari next Wednesday aimed at forging friendship ties ahead of next month's World Cup finals.

Mexico win

BURNABY, Canada, May 11. (AP): Luis Flores scored in the 10th minute as Mexico beat the United States 1-0 yesterday night in the 3-nations Cup soccer tournament.

World Cup

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 11. (Reuters): Sardinia on Wednesday invited four heads of state to watch their soccer teams play in the first round of World Cup matches on the island. Sardinia regional president Mario Floris said he had invited Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Irish President Patrick Hillery and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to watch their respective teams play.

Navratilova routs Martinez, Agassi knocked out

ROME, May 11. (AP): Top-seeded Martina Navratilova needed only 45 minutes to eliminate Conchita Martinez today, beating the sixth-seeded Spaniard 6-2, 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open.

In other quarterfinal action, second-seeded Monica Seles blasted her way past Manuela Maleeva 6-0, 6-2 to join Navratilova in the semifinals.

Seles, who has yet to lose a set in the tournament, bombarded No. 5 seed Maleeva with a relentless two-handed assault for the

entire match. The win brings Seles' career record against Maleeva to 6-0.
Tomorrow, Seles will meet Canada's Helen Kelesi, who rallied from a 4-2 deficit to win seven straight games and beat No. 13 seed Catarina Lindqvist 6-4, 6-3.

Results

Results of quarterfinal matches in the Women's Italian Open tennis championships today (prefix number denotes

seed): 11-Helen Kelesi (Canada) beat 13-Catarina Lindqvist (Sweden) 6-4, 6-3; 2-Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) beat 5-Manuela Maleeva (Switzerland) 6-0, 6-2; 1-Martina Navratilova (US) beat 6-Conchita Martinez (Spain) 6-2, 6-0.

■ Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden upset second-seeded Andre Agassi of the United States today, completing a rain-delayed third-round match at the \$1 million German Open.

Agassi, who trailed 7-6 (7-2), 4-4 when the match was suspen-

ded yesterday, saved a match point in the 10th game of the second set and forced a second tiebreaker. But he still couldn't beat the 15th-seeded Gustafsson, falling in the tiebreak 7-5.

The flamboyant American, ranked fourth in the world, said he will return to his home in Las Vegas, Nevada and will not return to Europe until a few days before the French Open, which begins May 28.

Results

Results at the million dollar

men's West German Open tennis championships on Friday (prefix number denotes seeding):

Third round: Stefan Magnusson (Sweden) beat 2-Andre Agassi (US) 7-6 (7-2) 7-6 (7-5); Juan Aguilera (Spain) beat 10-Jim Courier (US) 1-6-6-4-6-4.

Quarterfinals: Henri Leconte (France) beat Franco Davin (Argentina) 6-3 6-3; 1-Boris Becker (West Germany) beat Jimmy Arias (US) 6-3 6-1; Guy Forget (France) beat 5-Jay Berger (US) 6-3 3-6 6-4.

E. German star refused to join secret police

BONN, May 11. (UPI): East German figure skating star Katarina Witt was forced to give up millions of dollars in contracts because she refused to work for the East German secret police, she said in the West German Stern magazine Wednesday.

The Olympic champion, contradicting claims she had been the spoiled brat of ousted communist leaders Erich Honecker and Egon Krenz, said they had given her no breaks when it came to "ideologic" formations.

Witt said the now-dismantled East German Ministry for National Security — or Stasi — attempted to use her as an informer by offering her up to \$3 million West marks (\$3.11 million) for appearances abroad.

Writing in the current issue of Stern, Witt said she refused to sign any Stasi contracts which would have paid good money for overseas appearances.

Under the former hardline communist government, paid appearances abroad were officially forbidden for sports stars.

Witt said in spite of repeated, attractive offers by Stasi officials, she did not sign any of the contracts offered her between 1984 and 1988.



Witt lands after a triple jump during a performance. (Reuters wirephoto)

Berger takes provisional pole spot

IMOLA, Italy, May 11. (UPI): Gerhard Berger put the crash of last year's San Marino Grand Prix behind him today to capture provisional pole position for this year's race, with McLaren-Honda teammate Ayrton Senna breathing down his neck.

Berger lapped the 3.132 mile (5.040 km) circuit in one minute 24.027 seconds, an average speed of 134.173 mph (215.931 kph), the fastest lap ever recorded at the circuit.

It was at the same race last year that Berger's Ferrari rammed a concrete wall at 180 mph (290 kph) and burst into flame.

The Austrian suffered chemical burns on his

body, but missed just one race.

Now his biggest problem is keeping his new Brazilian teammate Senna at bay.

The McLaren drivers set the pace throughout the session, which was interrupted by Minardi driver Pierluigi Martini's crash.

Martini had to be cut out of the car, but his injuries proved to be mild — a broken left ankle.

Italy's Riccardo Patrese posted the third-fastest time, 1:24.486, in his Renault-powered Williams.

Britain's Nigel Mansell was fourth fastest in his Ferrari, after a controversy with Frenchman Olivier Grouillard in an Osella

body, but missed just one race.

Mansell, on a flying lap, came up behind Grouillard on a slow one.

The Frenchman made some attempt to get out of the way, but Mansell said he in fact slowed even more, forcing Mansell to pull inside of him with an alarming wobble.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen's Williams was sandwiched between Mansell and his Ferrari teammate, world champion Alain Prost of France.

The next row belonged to seventh-fastest Jean Alesi of France in a Tyrrell and three-time world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil in a Benetton.

Top manager

LONDON, May 11. (Reuters): Kenny Dalglish has been named English club Manager of the Year for the third time in five seasons.

Dalglish, who guided Liverpool to the First Division title this season, their 10th in 15 years, was presented with the 'Manager of the Year' trophy at an awards ceremony in London today.

It was the 11th time in 18 seasons that a Liverpool manager had won the award.

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Published by:
Dar Al-Seyassah

Editor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editorial Office:
Airport Road, Shuwaikh,
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:
22332 KT

Telephones:
4813566 (main lines)

Advertising:
4816326/7

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subscribers)
Tel: 4818149, 4831348

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